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**M 254.23

Music: Piccinni's 'Didon'

NYT Feb. 21, 1975
By RAYMOND ERICSON

Any current interest in the composer Niccolò Piccinni is historical. He is famous in the music encyclopedias for being a major rival of Gluck's in the late 18th-century Parisian operatic scene, a rivalry stirred more by the two composers' followers than by themselves. Gluck won out, and his operas still hold the stage today. Piccinni's works are almost totally ignored.

Newell Jenkins, champion of the forgotten, presented Piccinni's "Didon" (1783) in his Clarion Concerts program Wednesday night in Alice Tully Hall and made a good case for the composer's music without quite persuading one that a masterpiece was being revived.

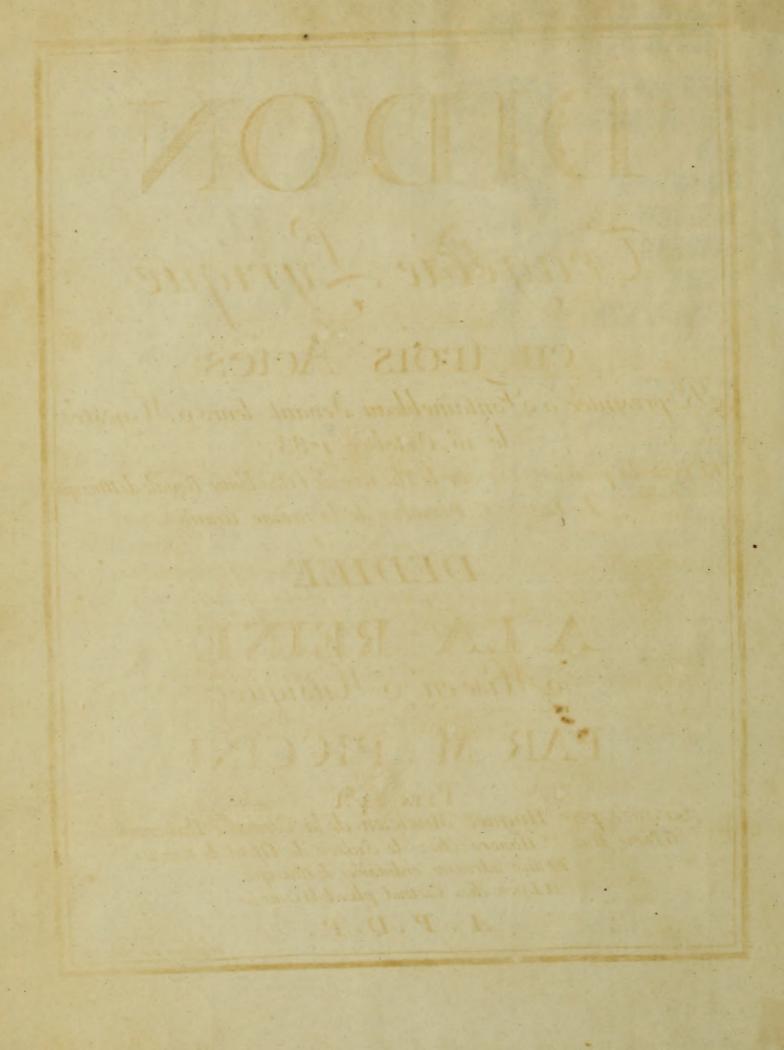
The musical setting of the story of Dido and Aeneas is very much like Gluck's in style: a stately procession of arias, duets and choruses. The vocal line has passion and grace, but is vitiated, for modern listeners, by the lack of interesting harmonic support. Outside of the melodies, the color and drama in the music come from imaginative rhythmic figurations and orchestration.

There are many very fine things in the score. Two of Dido's arias that were once widely admired still stand out. The second, "Hélas! pour nous il s'expose," gets impetus from a striking rhythmic idea that underscores Dido's fears for Aeneas's life. The two men, Aeneas and his rival, Jarbe, have powerful arias.

The opera never has transcendant moments, such as those that turn up in Gluck's works. It suggests that Piccinni could never write anything so tremendous as the opening of Gluck's "Iphigenia in Tauris" or anything quite as appealing as "Orpheus and Eurydice." And this is probably the reason Piccinni's music has been left by the wayside.

The staged performance, with the orchestra in the pit, was excellent. Mr. Jenkins filled the score with as much life and intensity as it could hold. Joan Patenaude as Dido, needed time for her appealing lyric voice to warm up, but she is an artist of unusual sensitivity, and she gave the character real pathos at the end. Gary Glaze, in the tenor part of Aeneas, and Thomas Palmer, in the baritone role of Jarbe were first-rate.

The tasteful and effective staging was the work of Janice Plastino, director; Charles Tomlinson, designer, and Cameron Harvey, who did the lighting.



DIDON

Cragédie Lyrique

en trois Actes

Representée à Fontainebleau devant leurs Majestés le 16.0 ctobre 1783.

Et pour la premiere fois sur le Théatre de l'Académie Royale de Musique Le Lundy 1^{er} Décembre de la même Année.

DEDIEE

A I A REINE Mise en Musique

PAR M. PICCINI

Gravée par Huguet Musicien de la Comedie Italienne.

Alaris Rue St. Honoré, Chez le Saisse de Modilles.

Et aux adresses ordinaires de Musique

A Lyon chez Castaud place de la Comédie.

 $A \cdot P \cdot D \cdot R$.

Imprime par Basset

A la Reine

I-m. 254,23

Madame

Le jour même où j'appris que Vôtre Majeste daignoit m'assurer pour la vie la jouissance de ses bienfaits, je fis le vœu de reunir toutes mes forces, pour composer, s'il m'étoit possible, un ouvrage digne de lui être offert et consacre par la reconnoissance. Ce Sentiment, qui quelque fois nous tient lieu de génie, ma inspire l'Opéra de Didon; et dès que Votre Majeste a bien voulu en agréer l'hommage, mon vœu est accompli. Puisse le reste d'une vie dont je dois le repos à Vôtre Majesté, être employé à ses amusemens avec autant de Succès que de Lèle.

Je suis a vec le plus profond Respect.

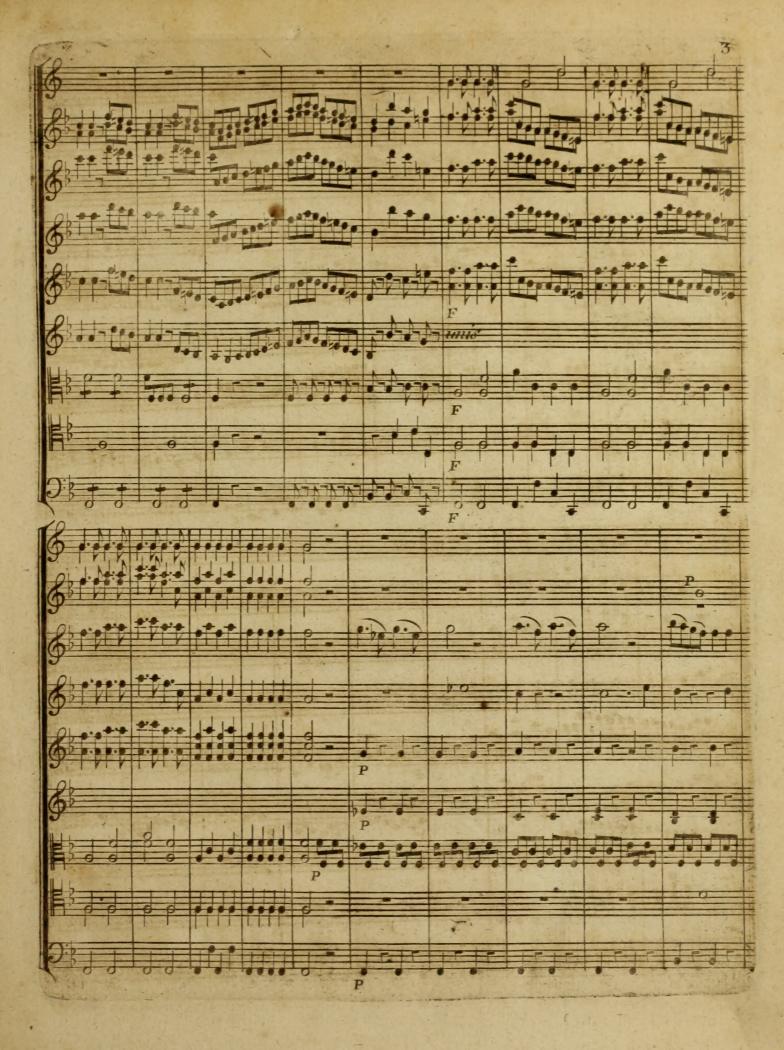
De Vôtre Majesté

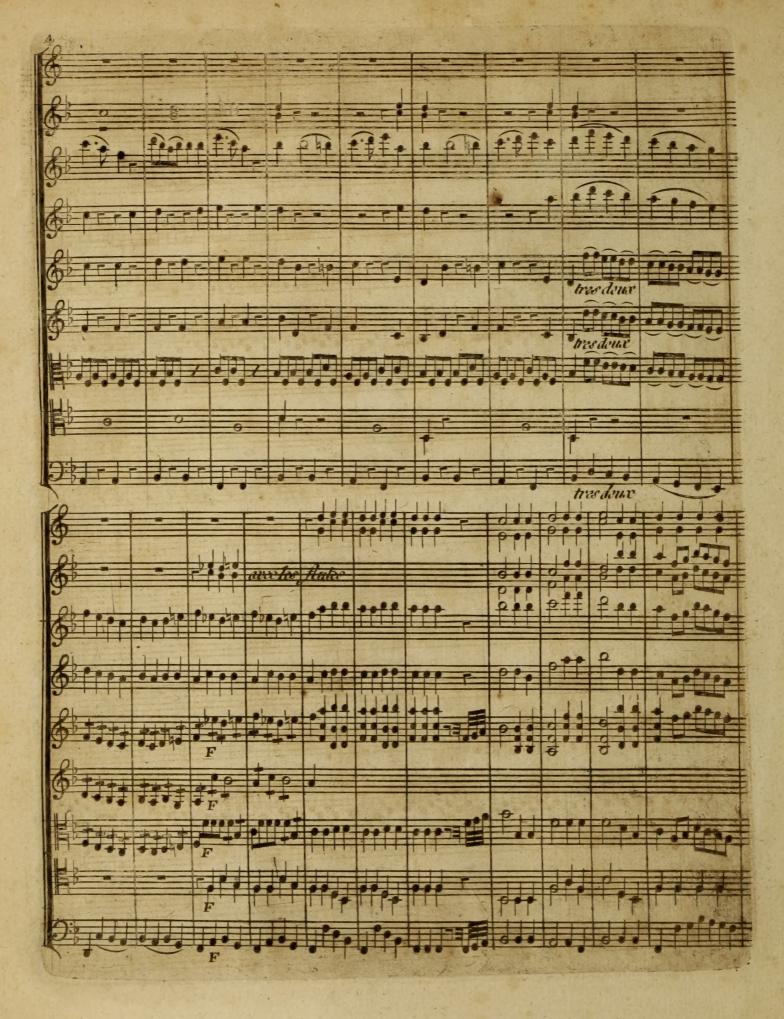
Le très humble, très Obéissant et très dévoue Serviteur.

Liecinni)

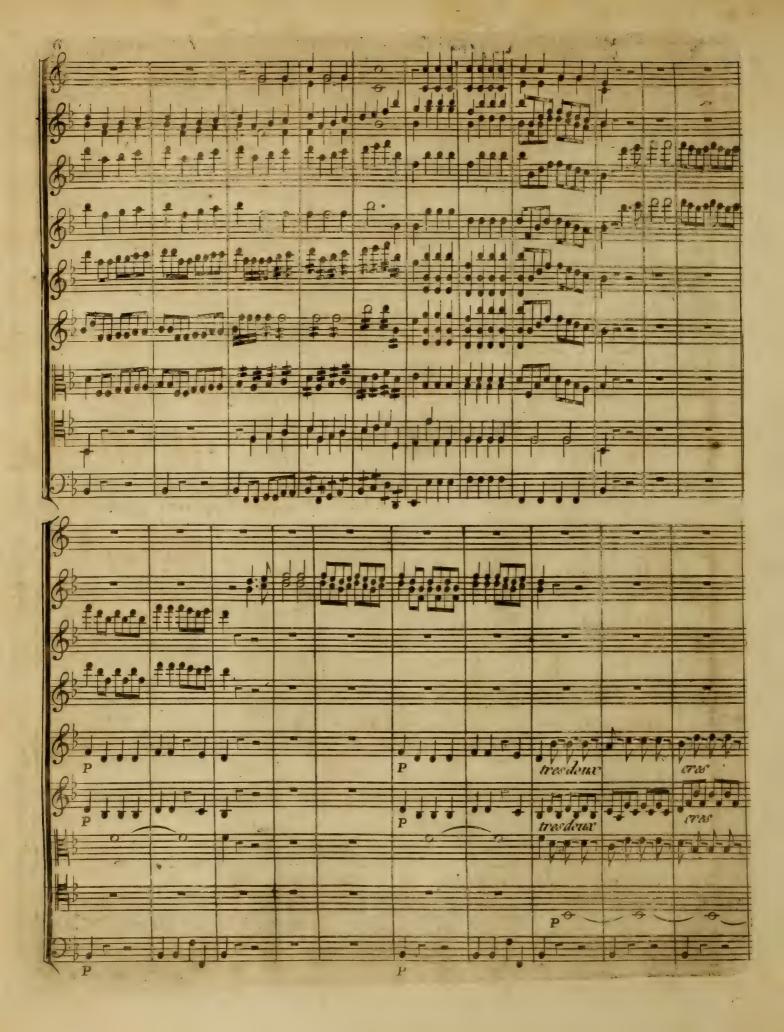








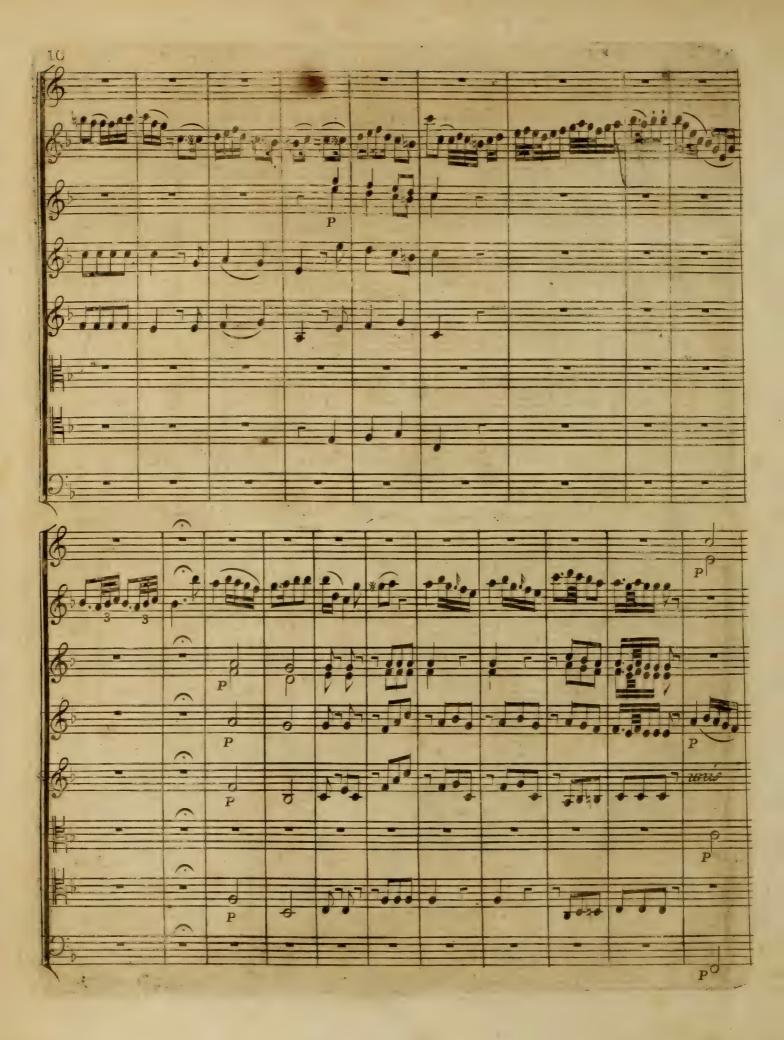


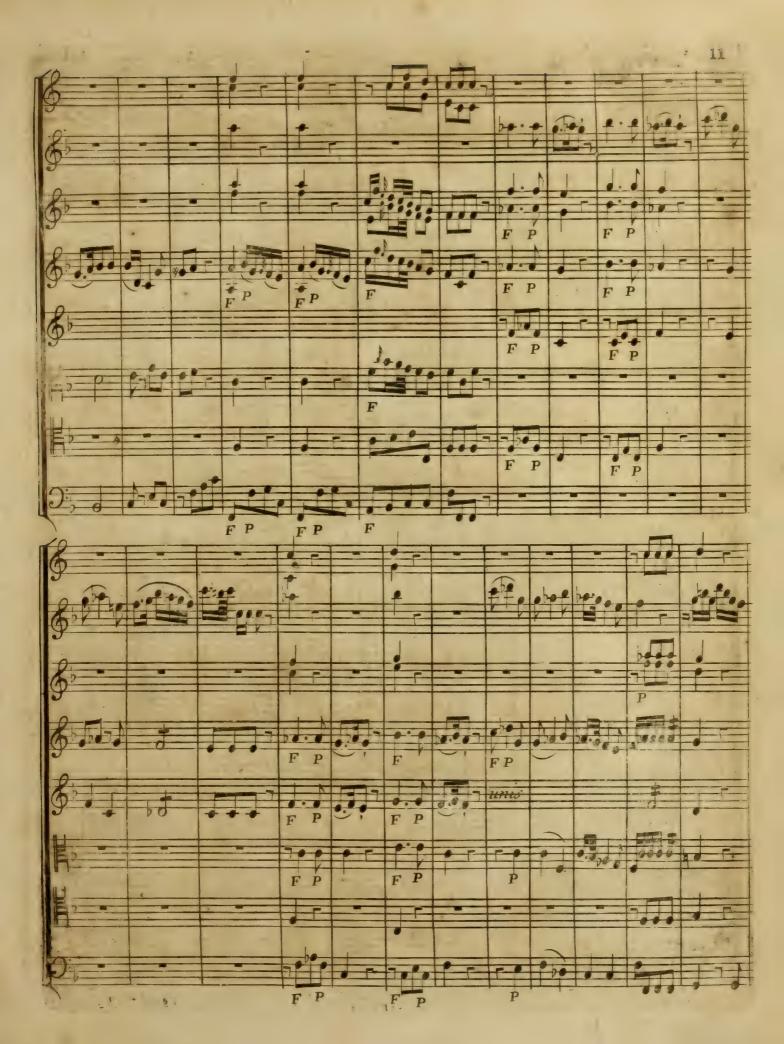






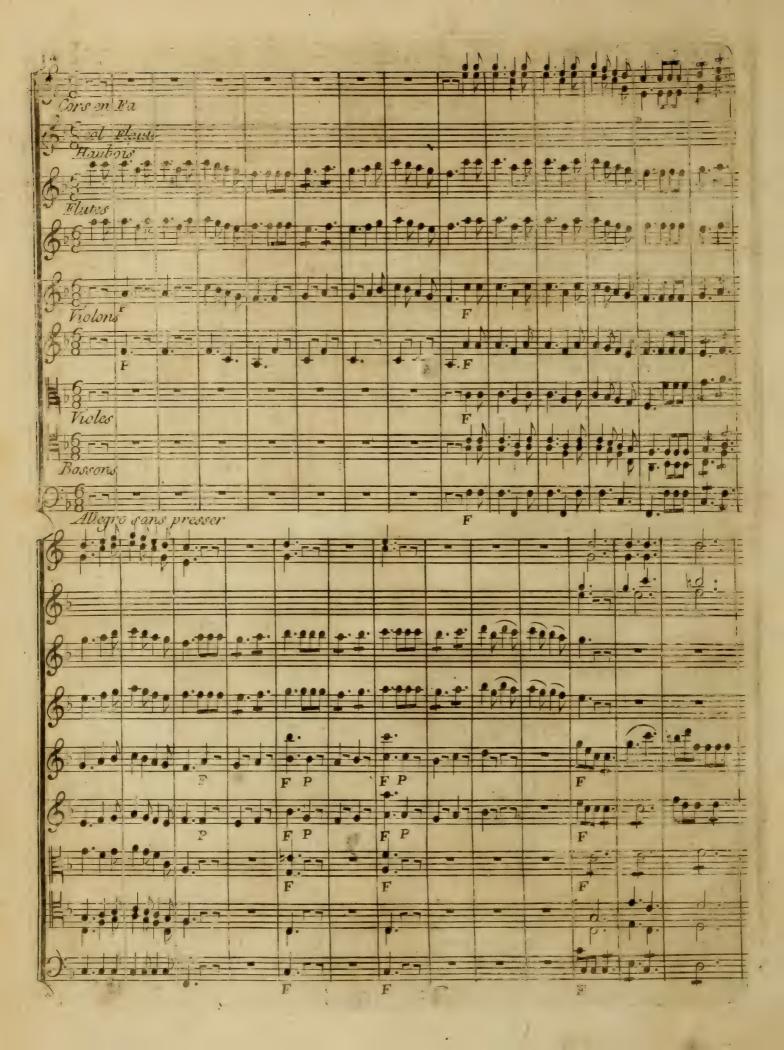


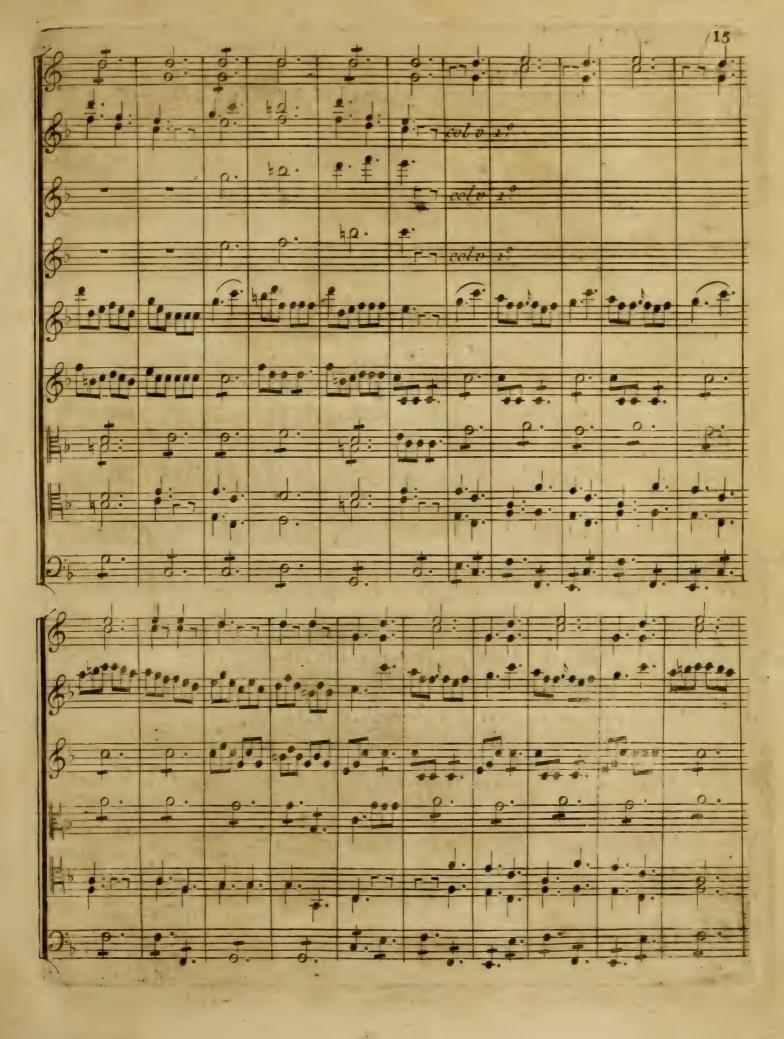


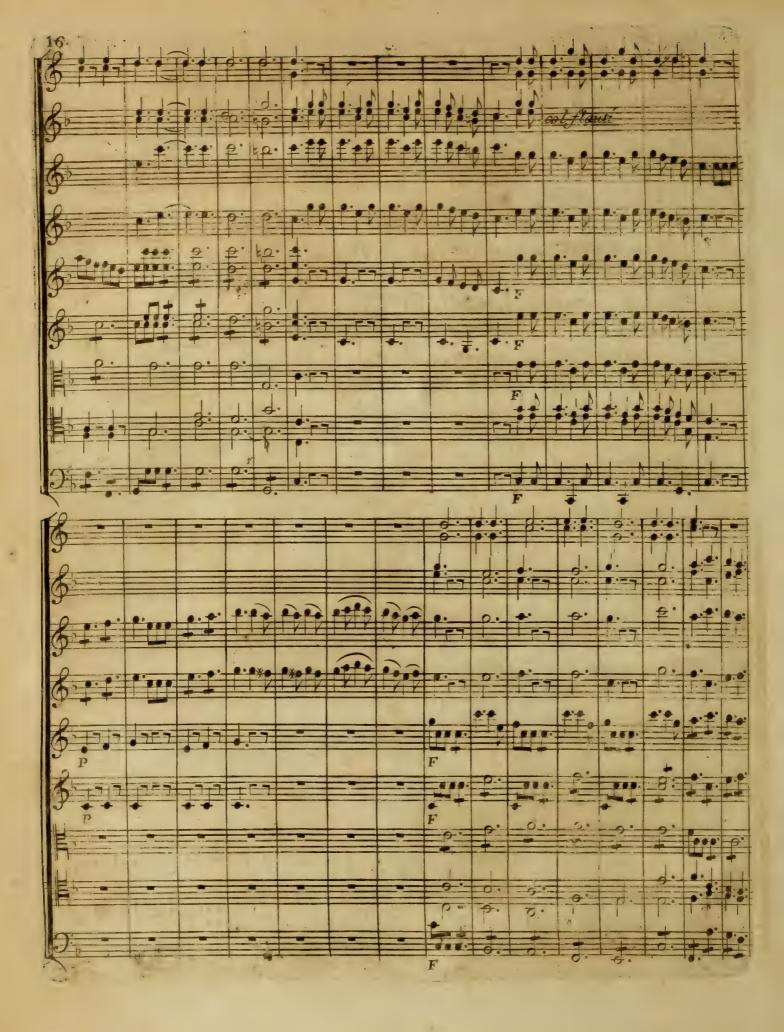


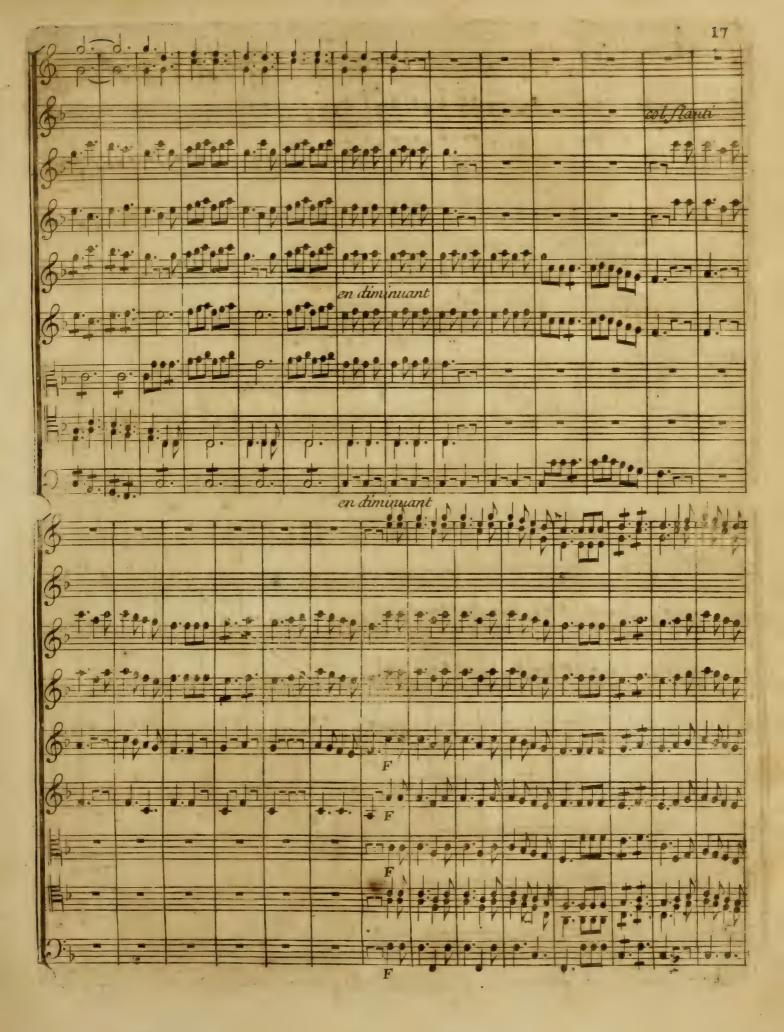


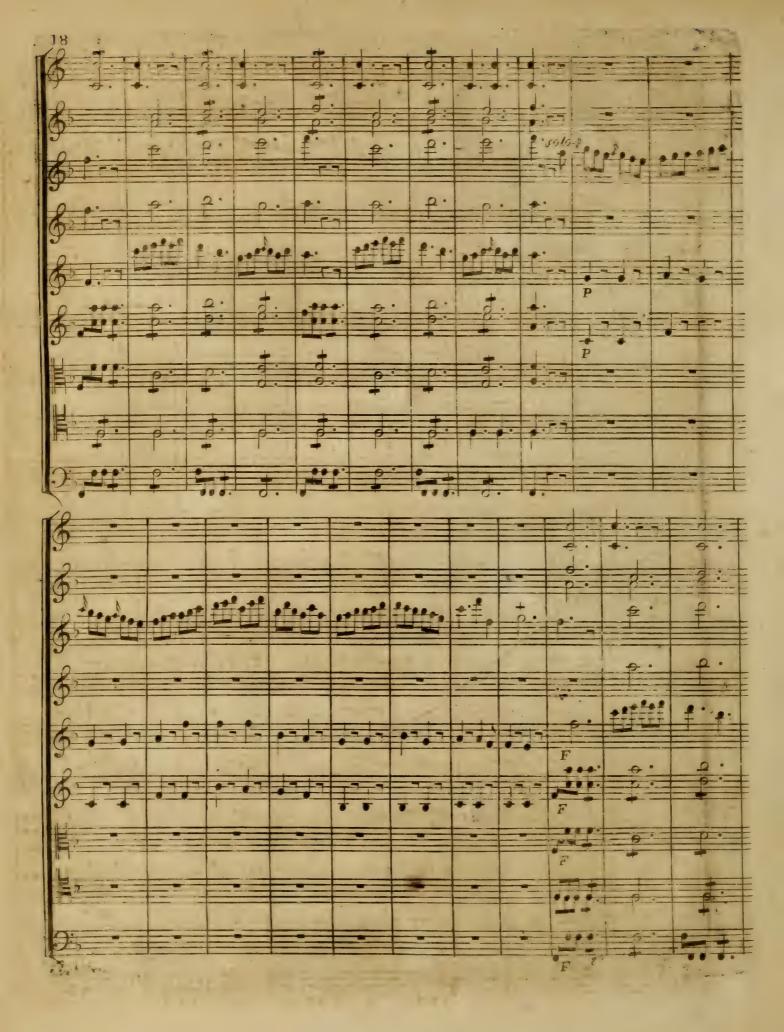








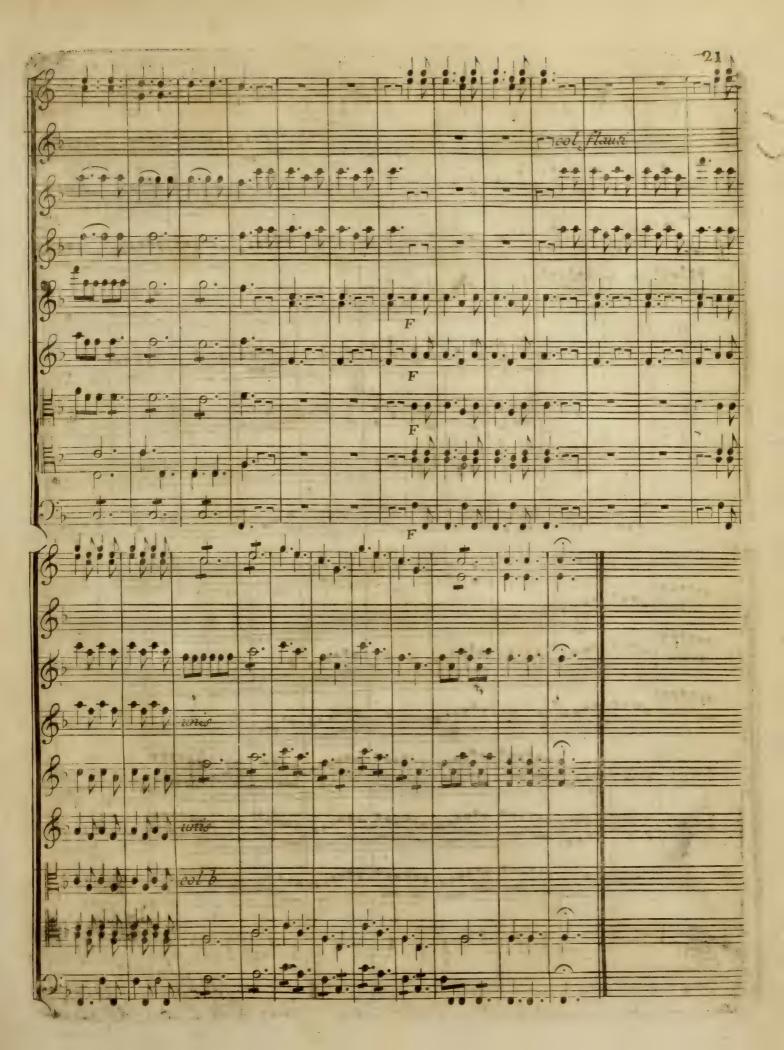












ACTE PREMIER

Le Theâtre represente une Salle du Palais de Didon.

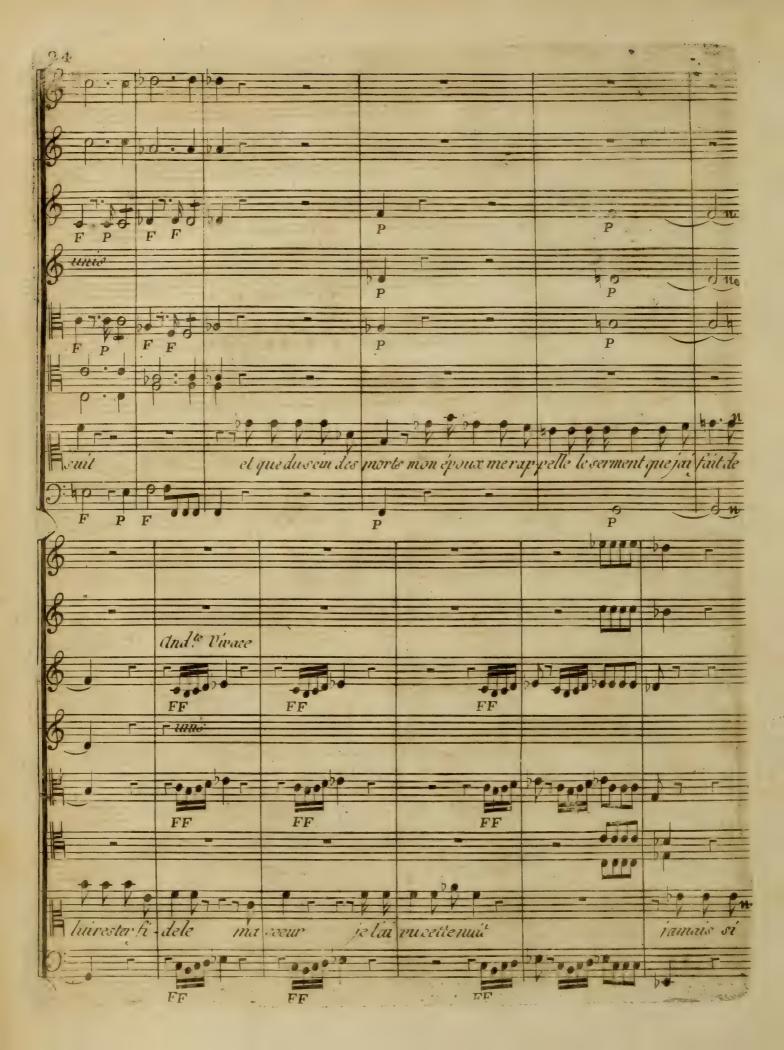
SCENE PREMIERE

Didon, Elise, Phénice?.

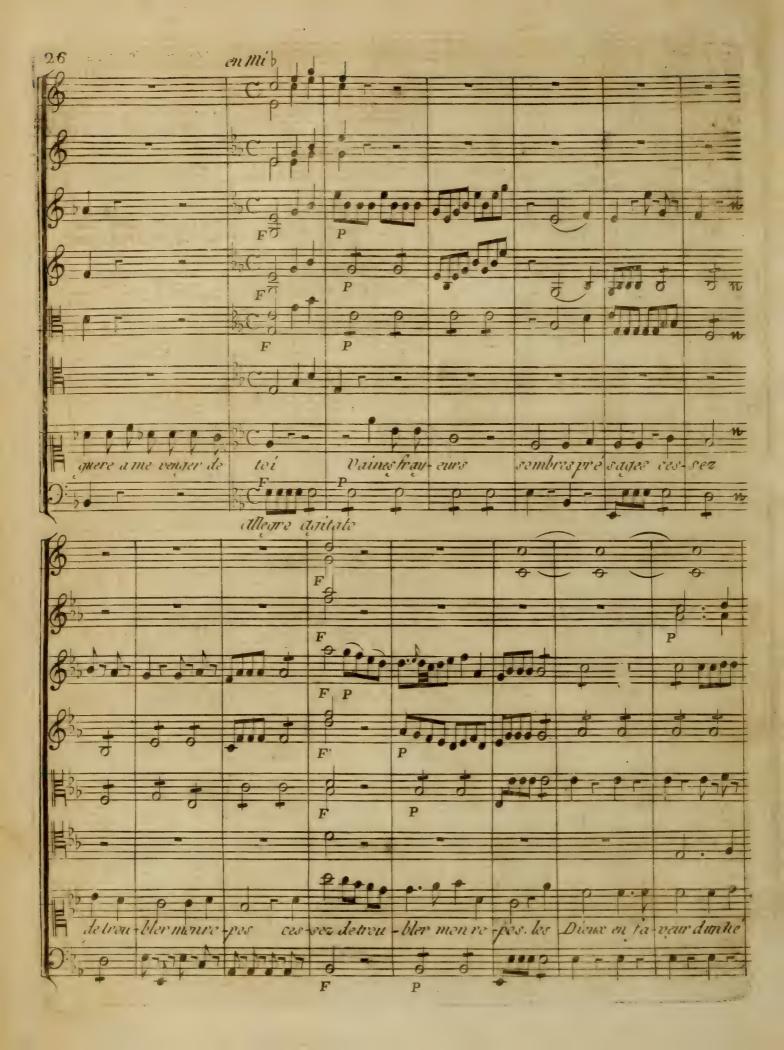


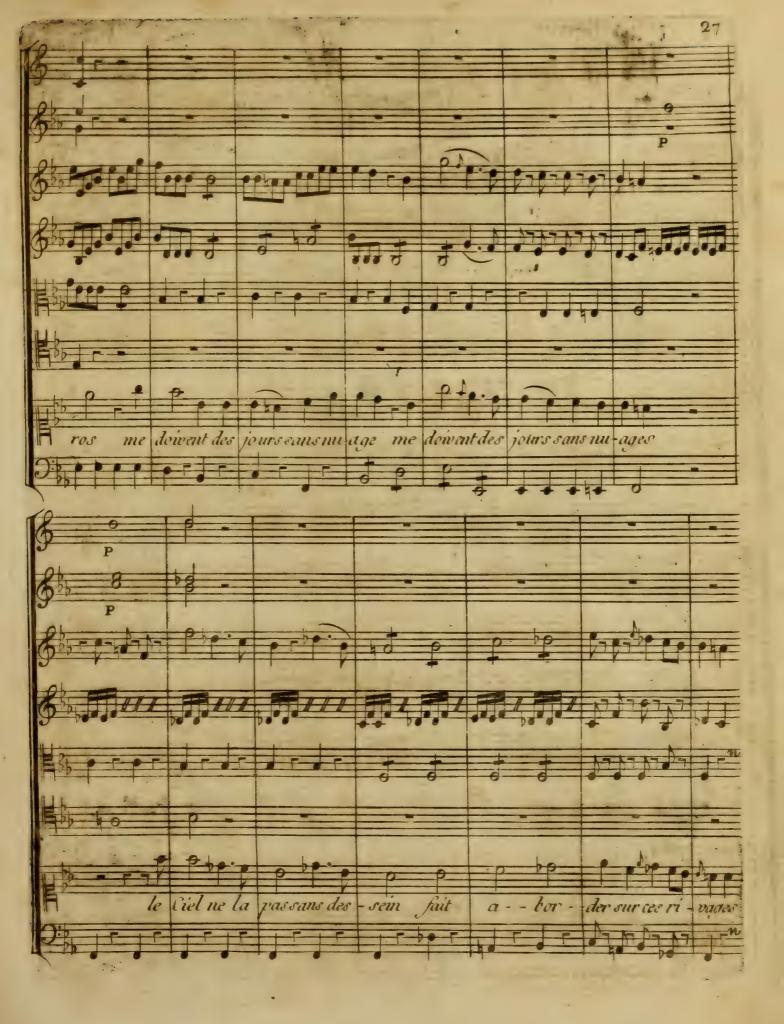


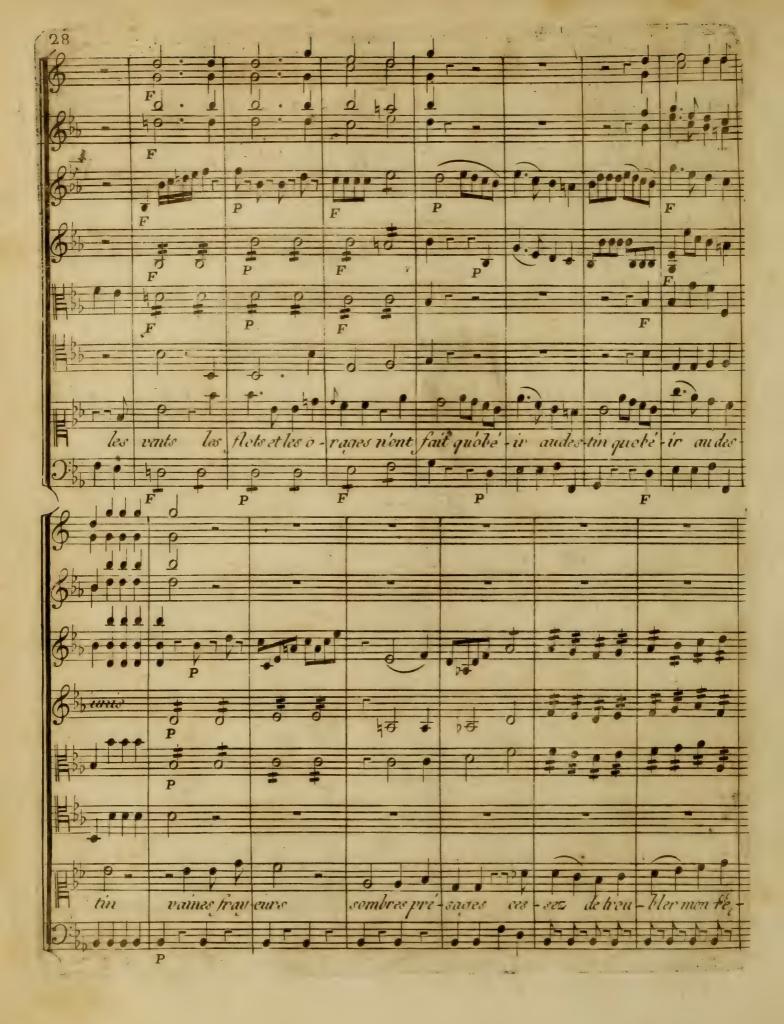


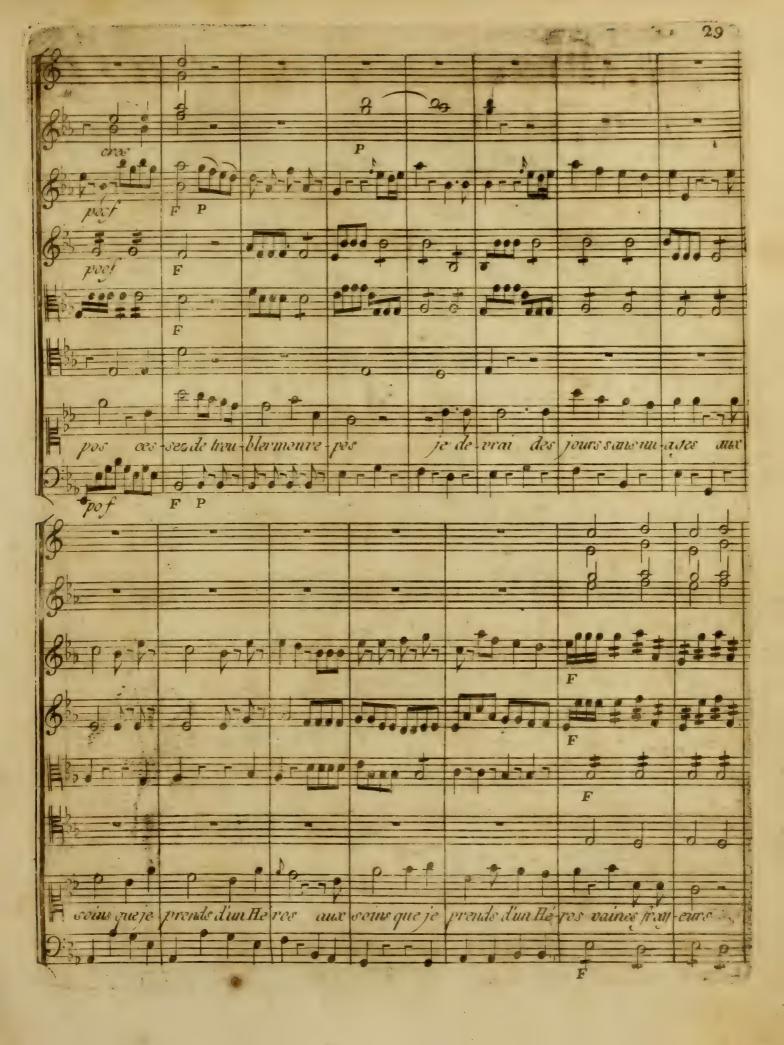


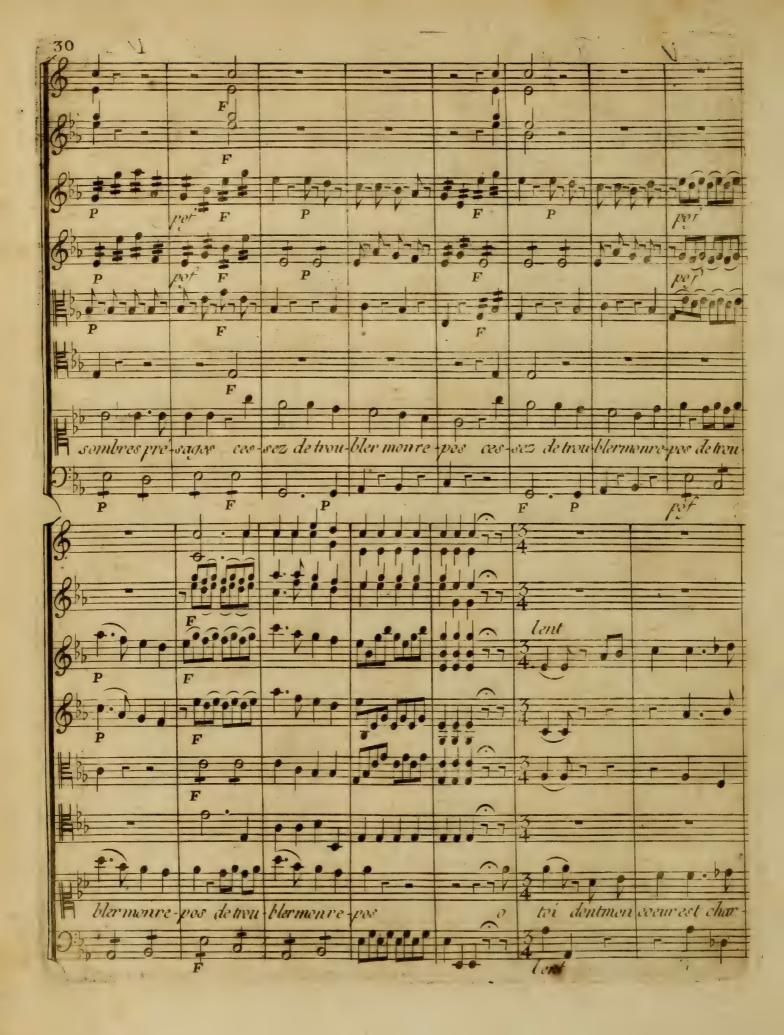


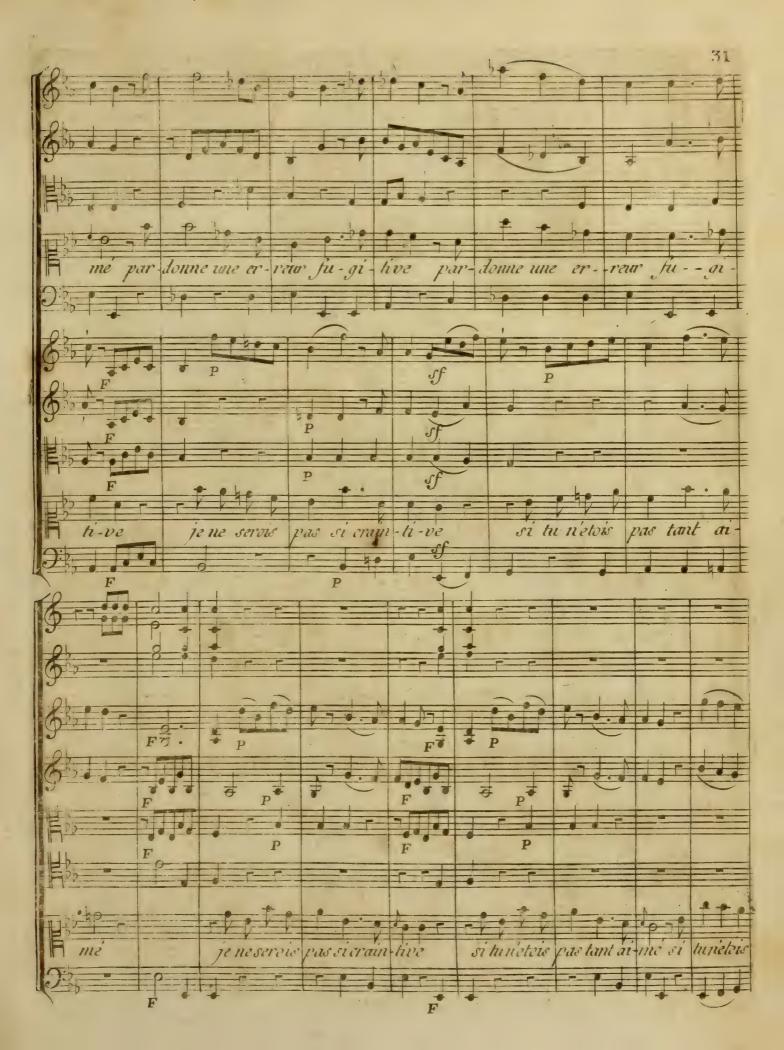


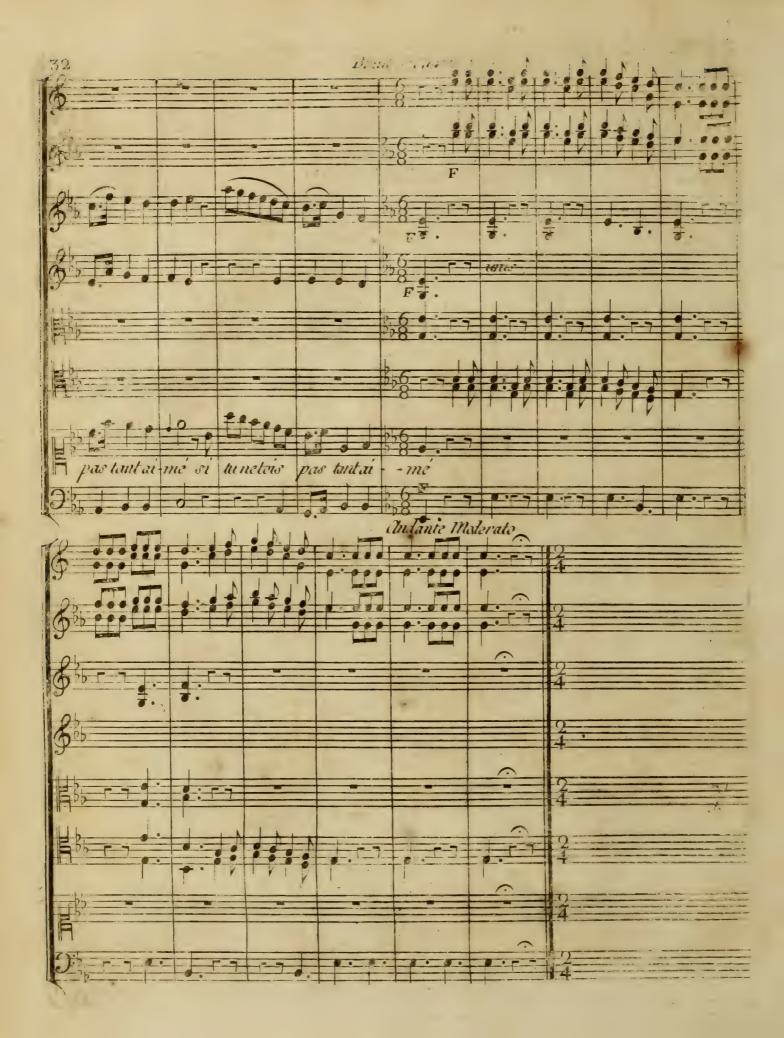


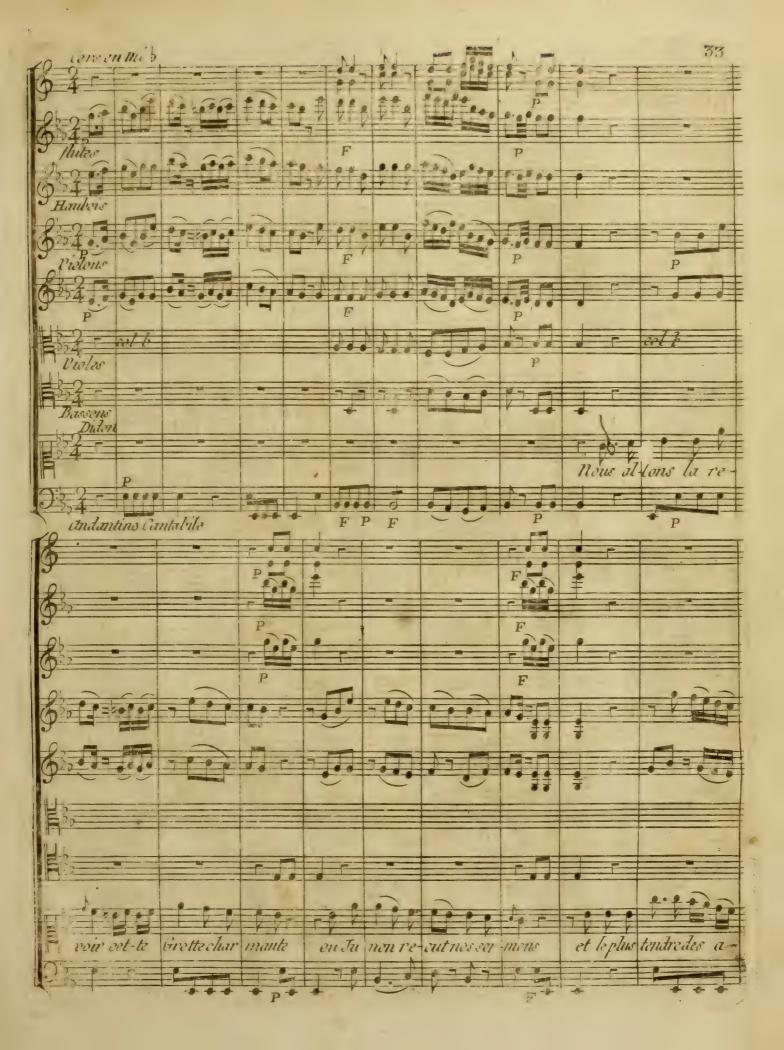






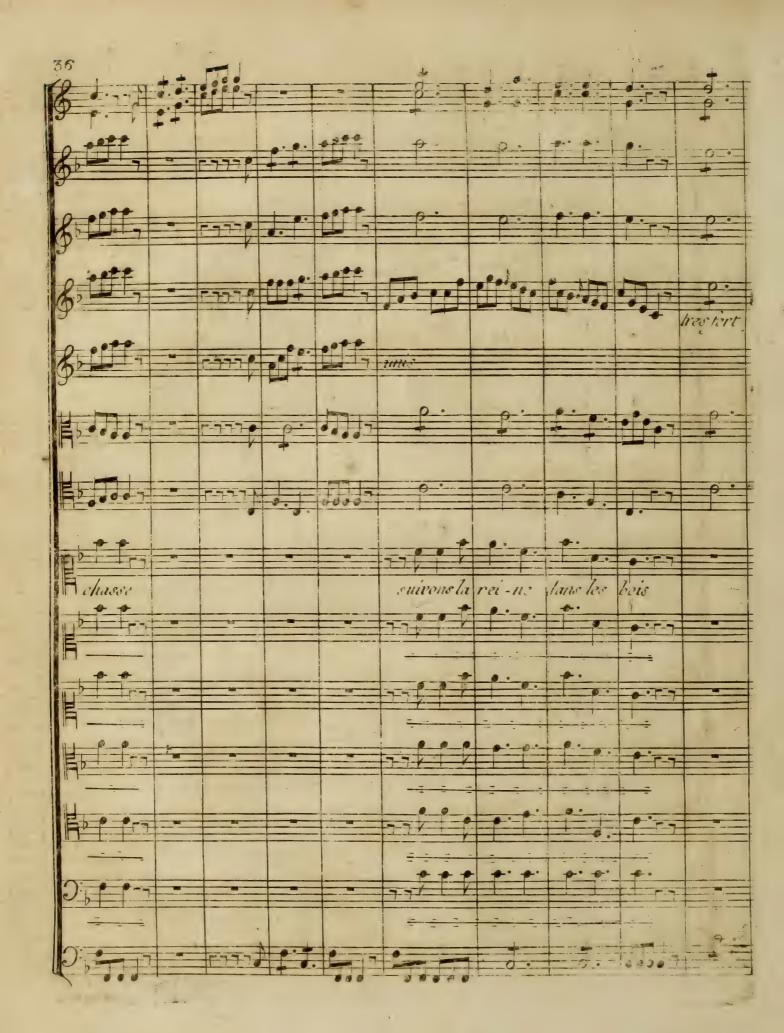


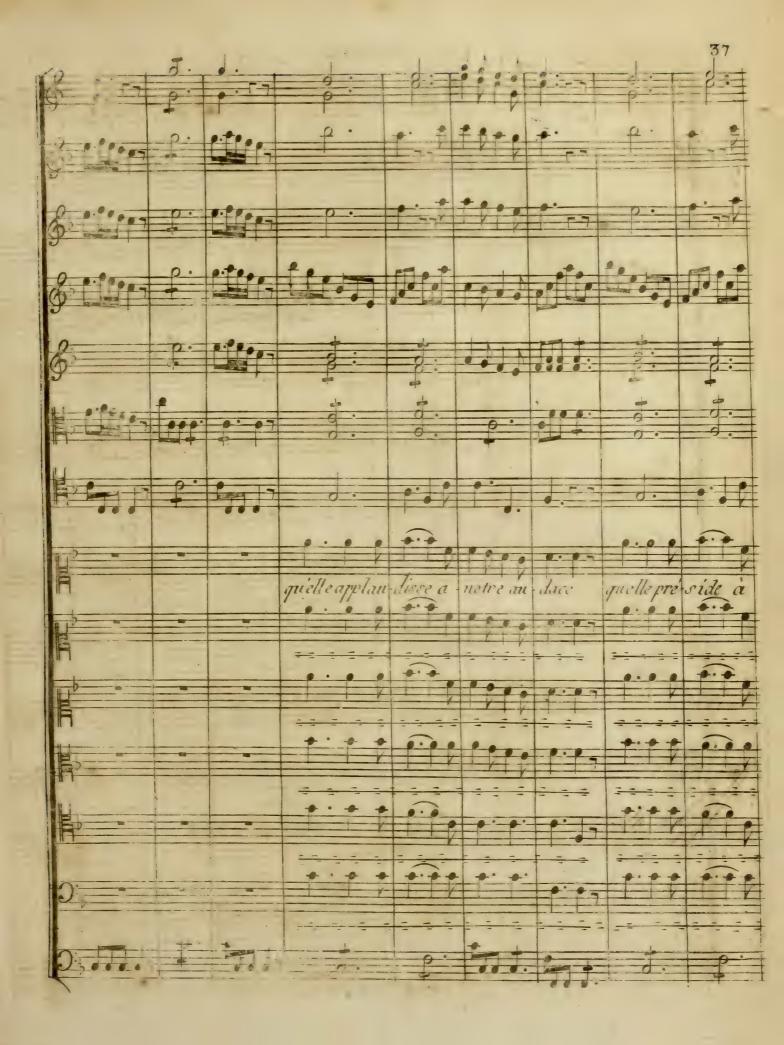


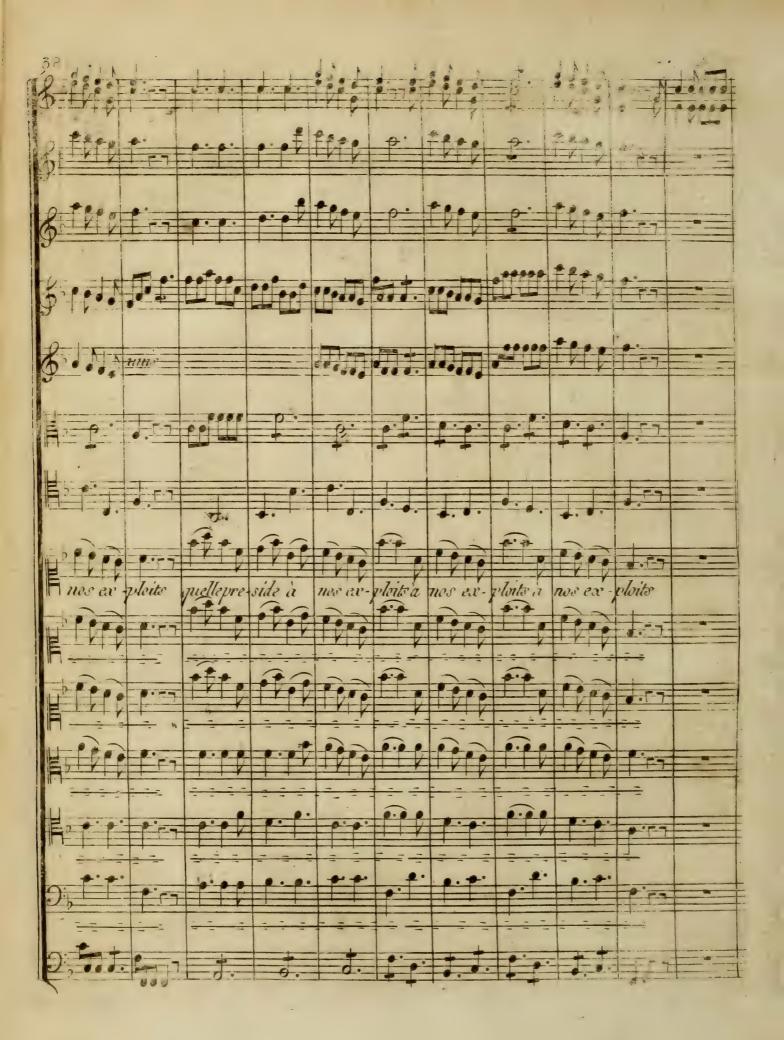




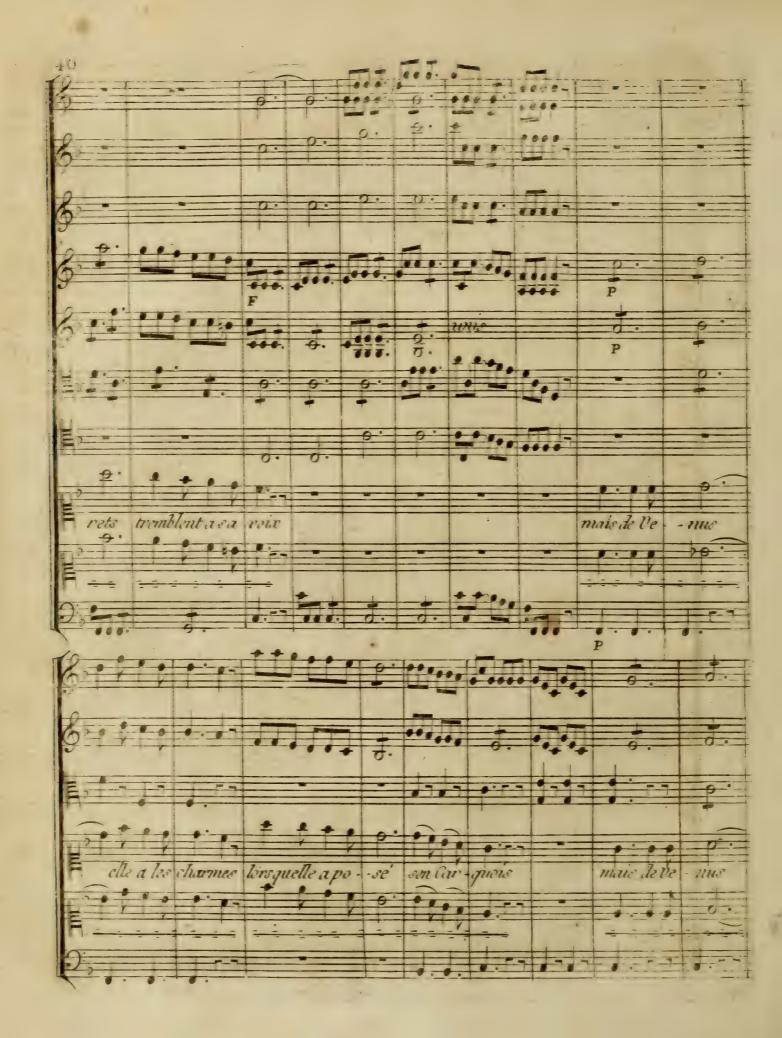




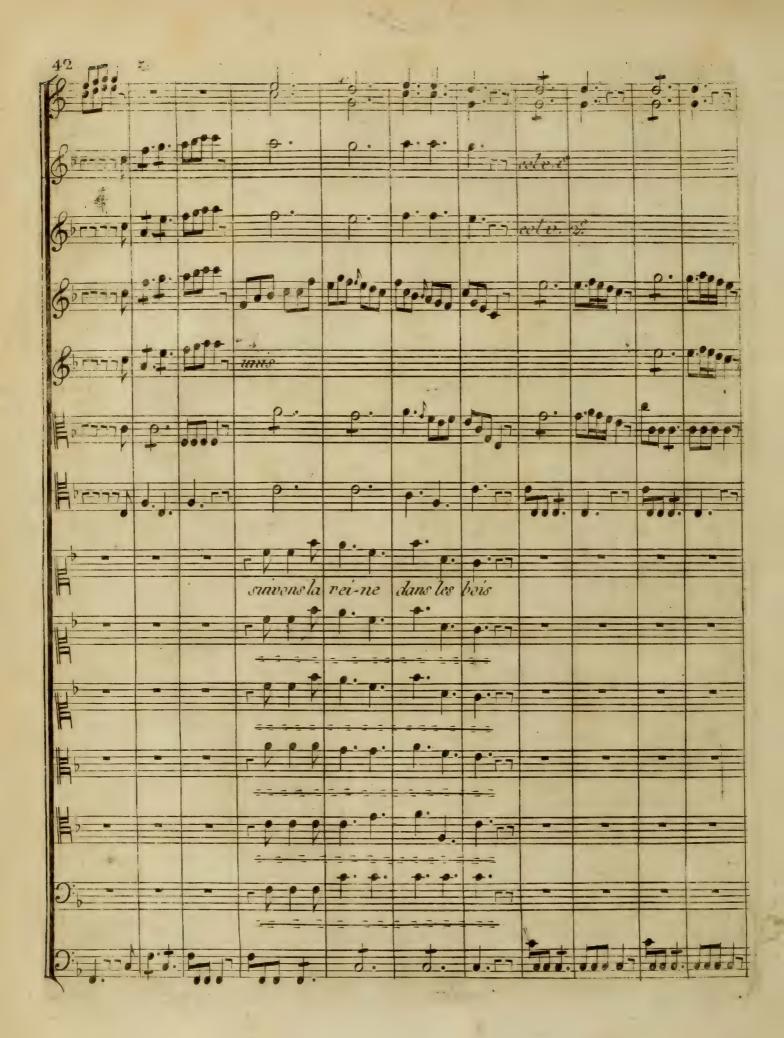


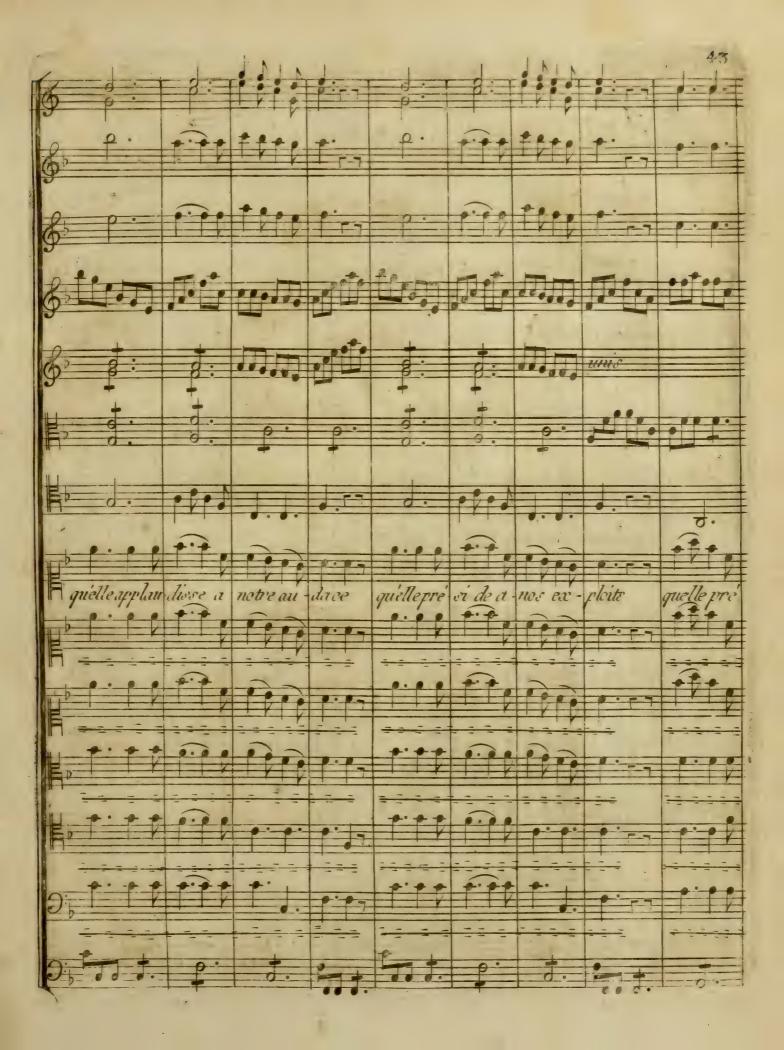


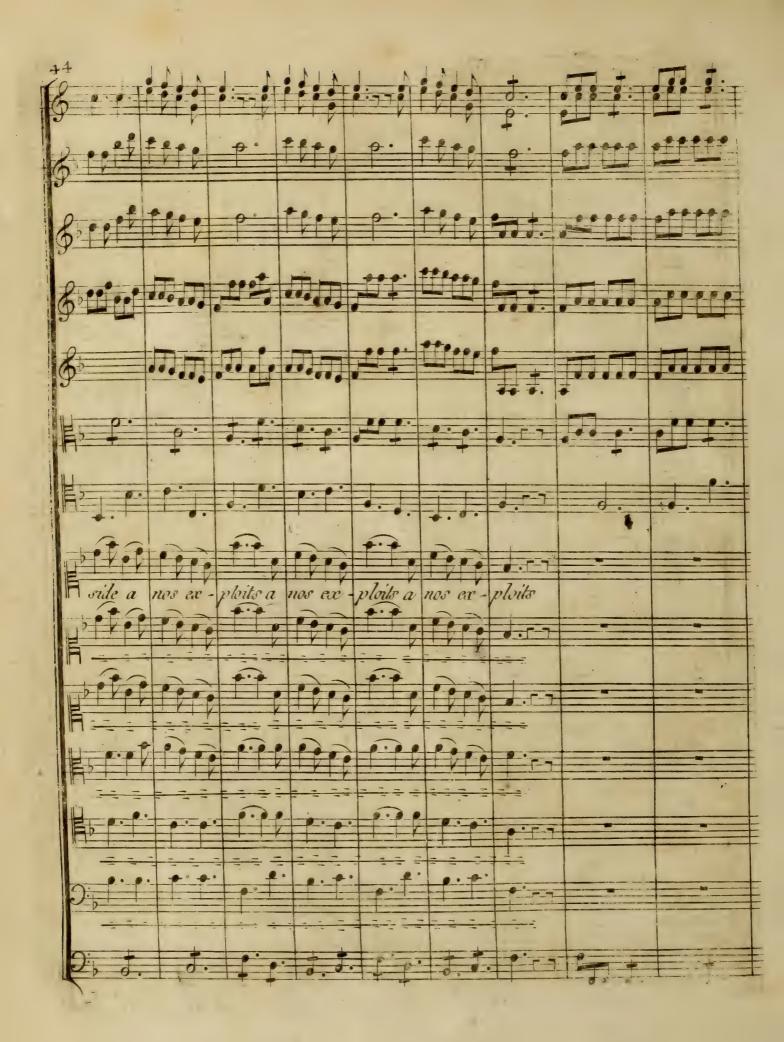








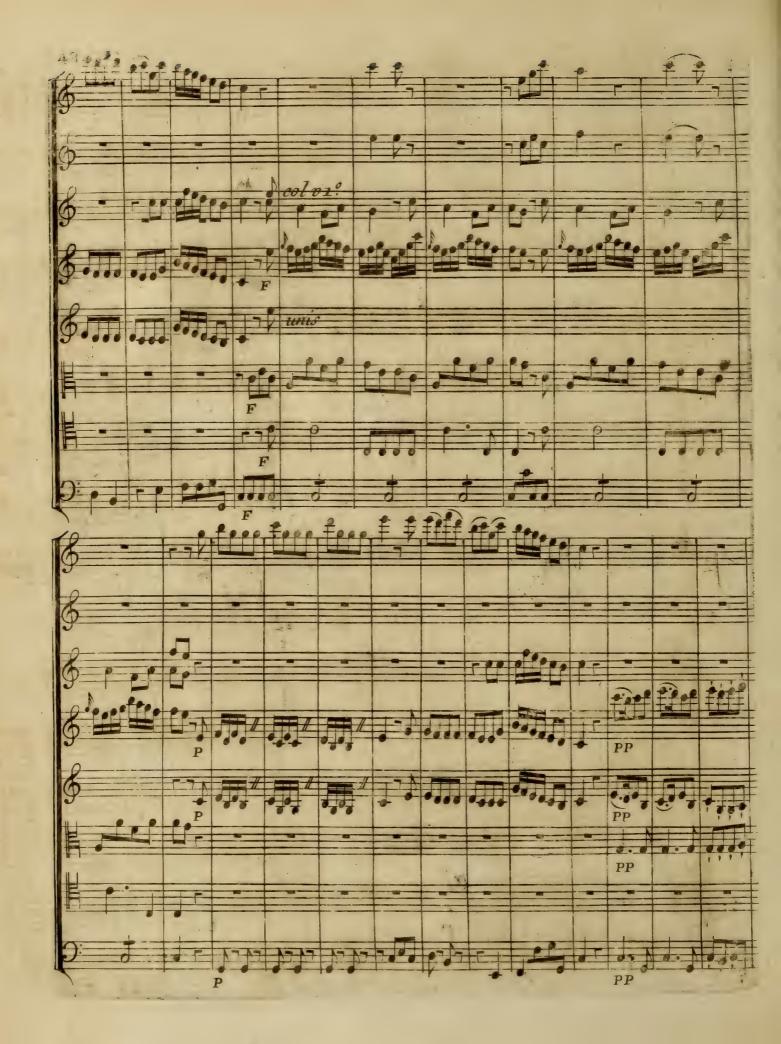


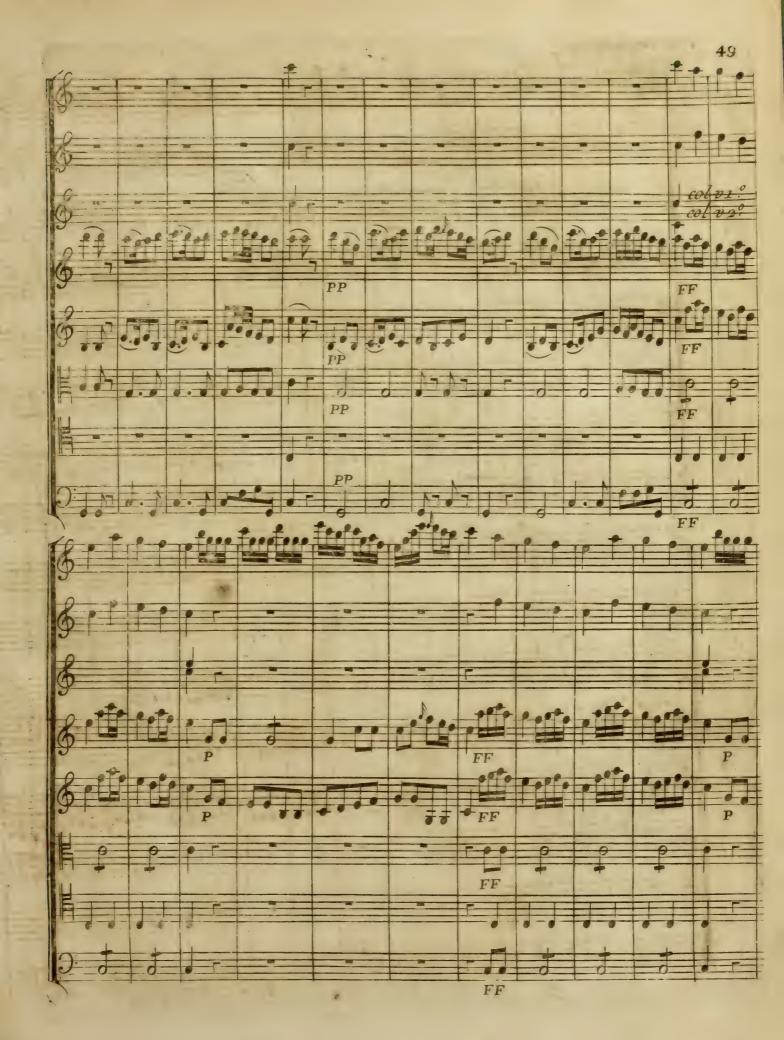




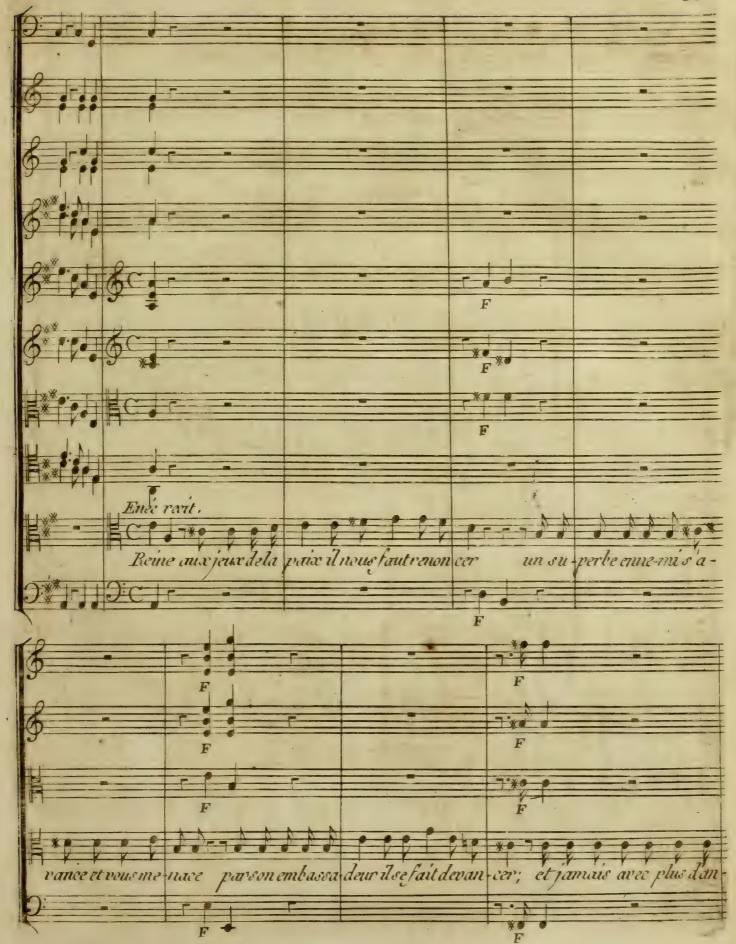


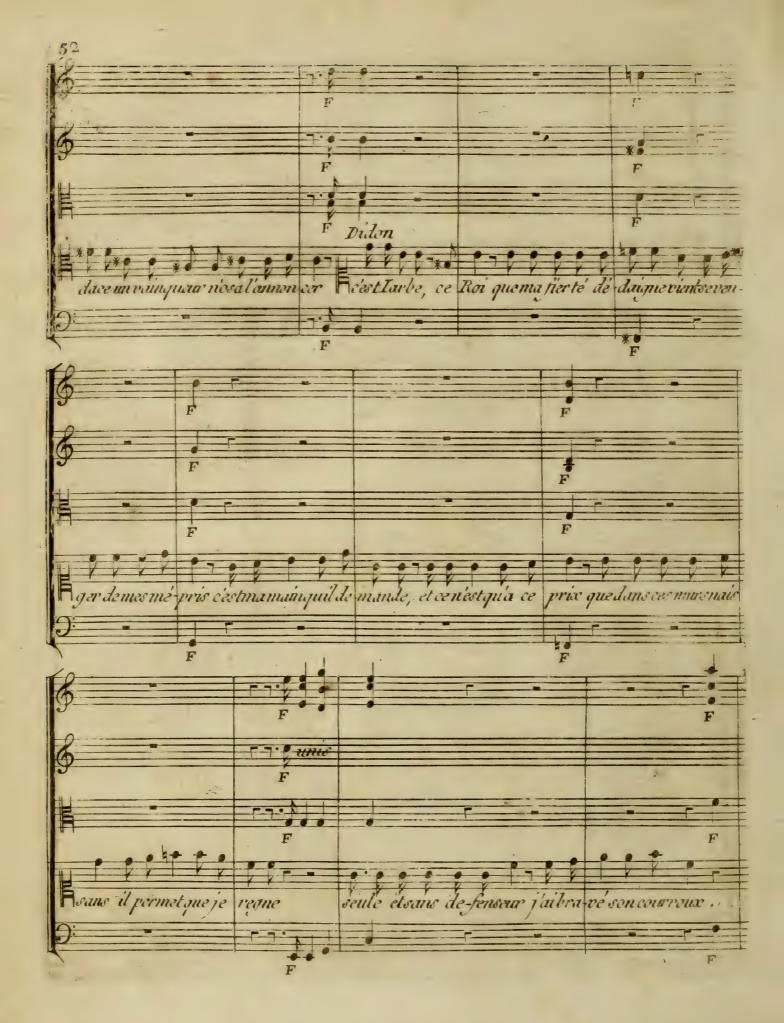




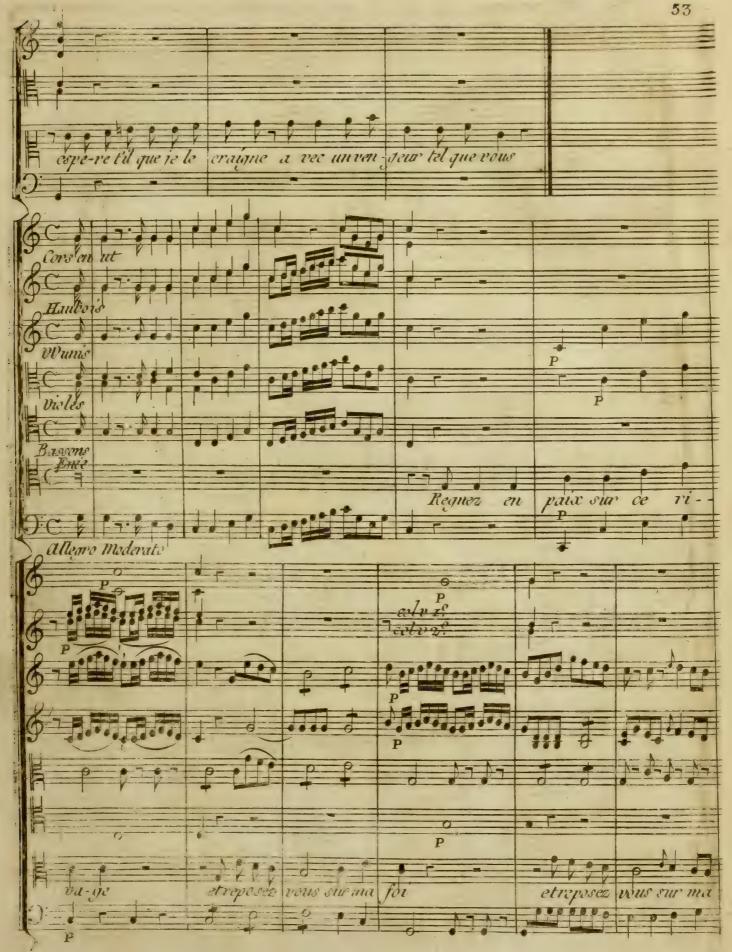


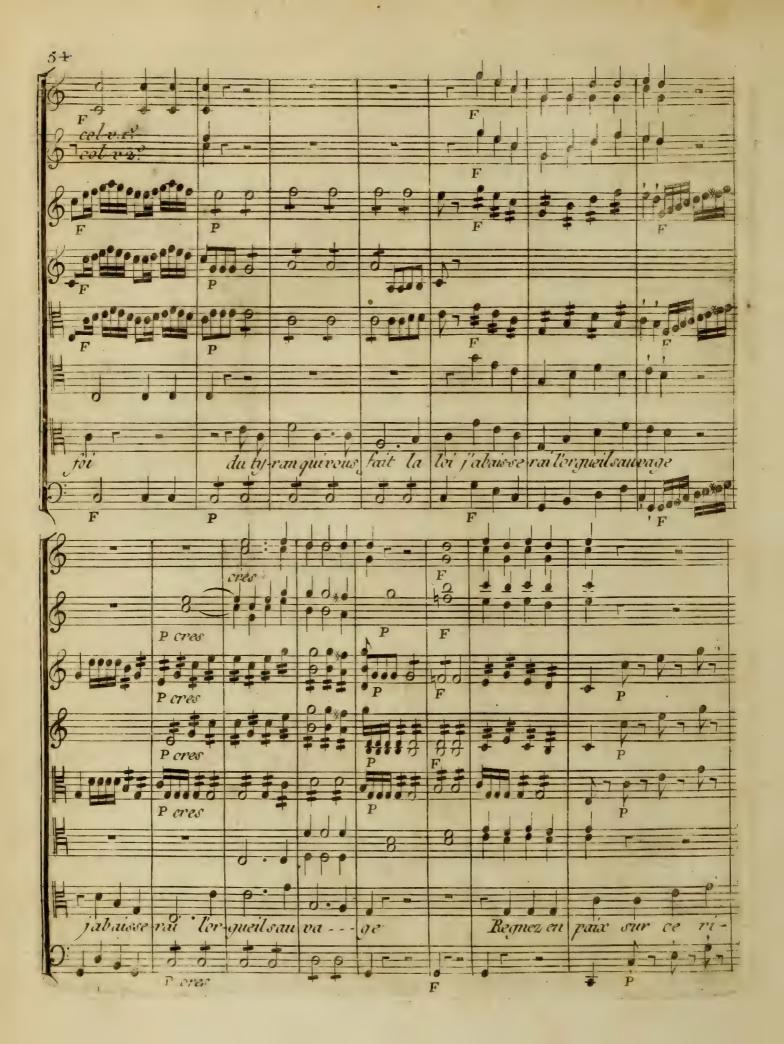


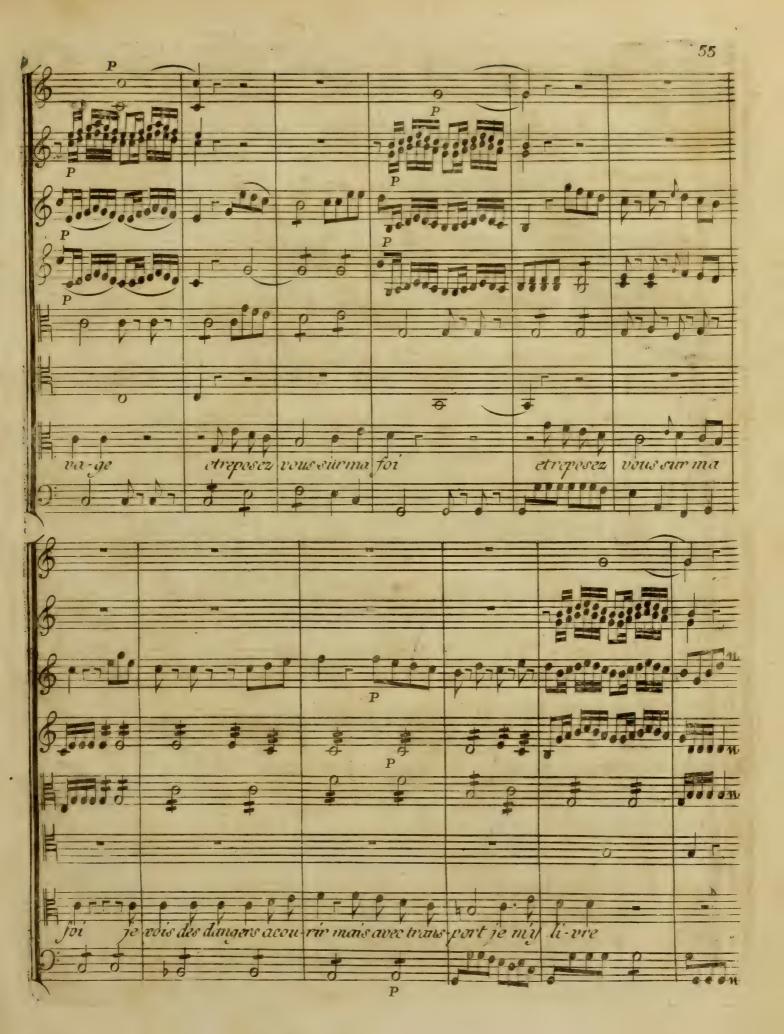


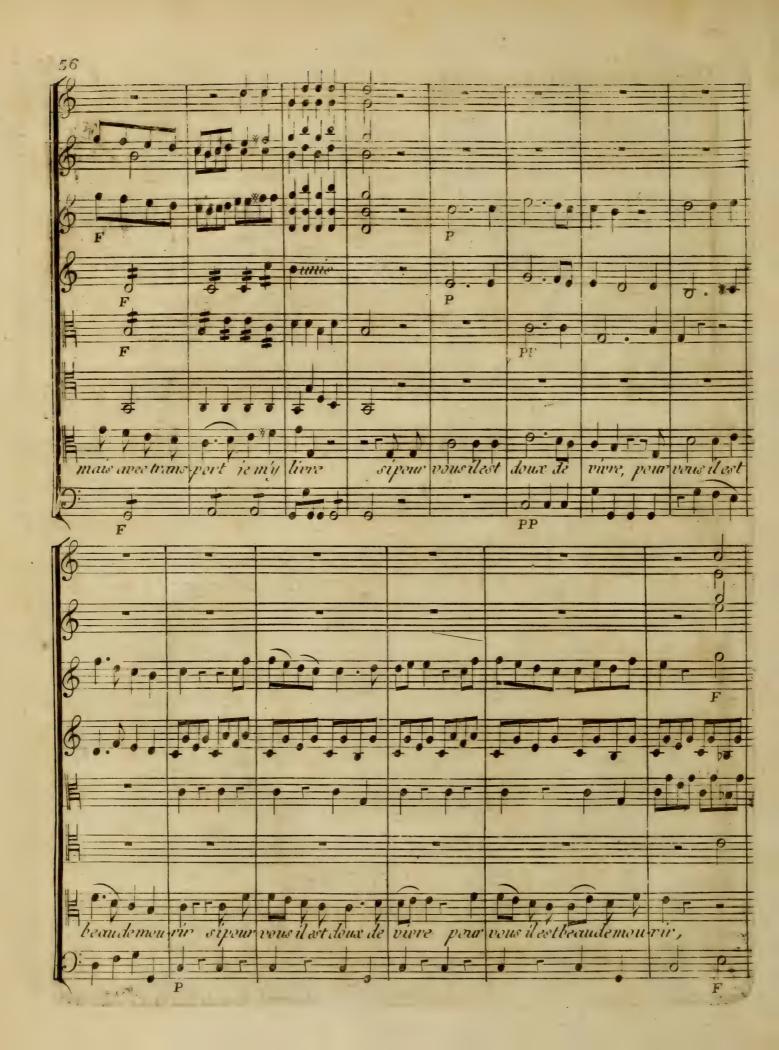










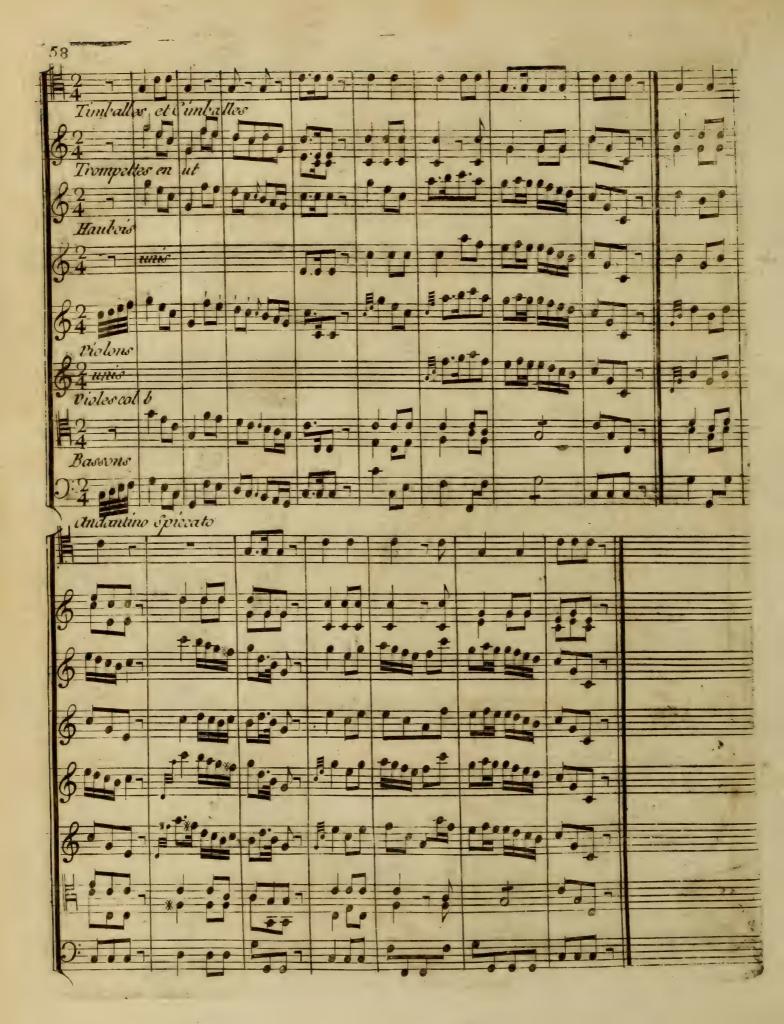


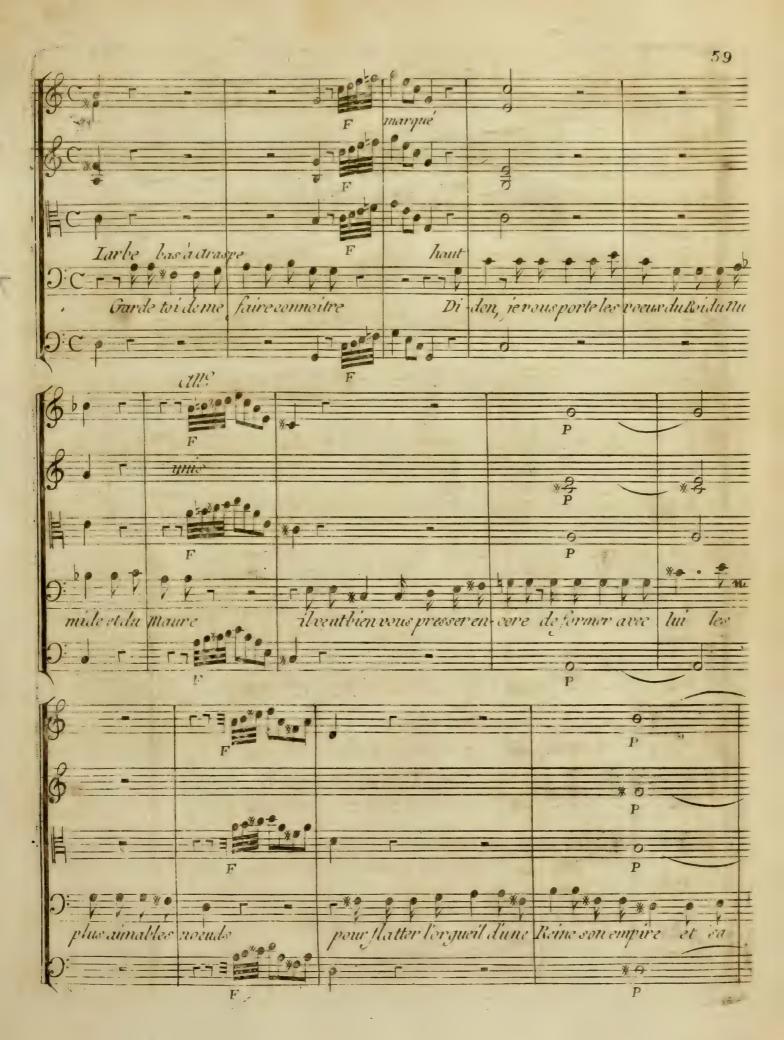




SCENE IV.

Iarbe, Araspe et



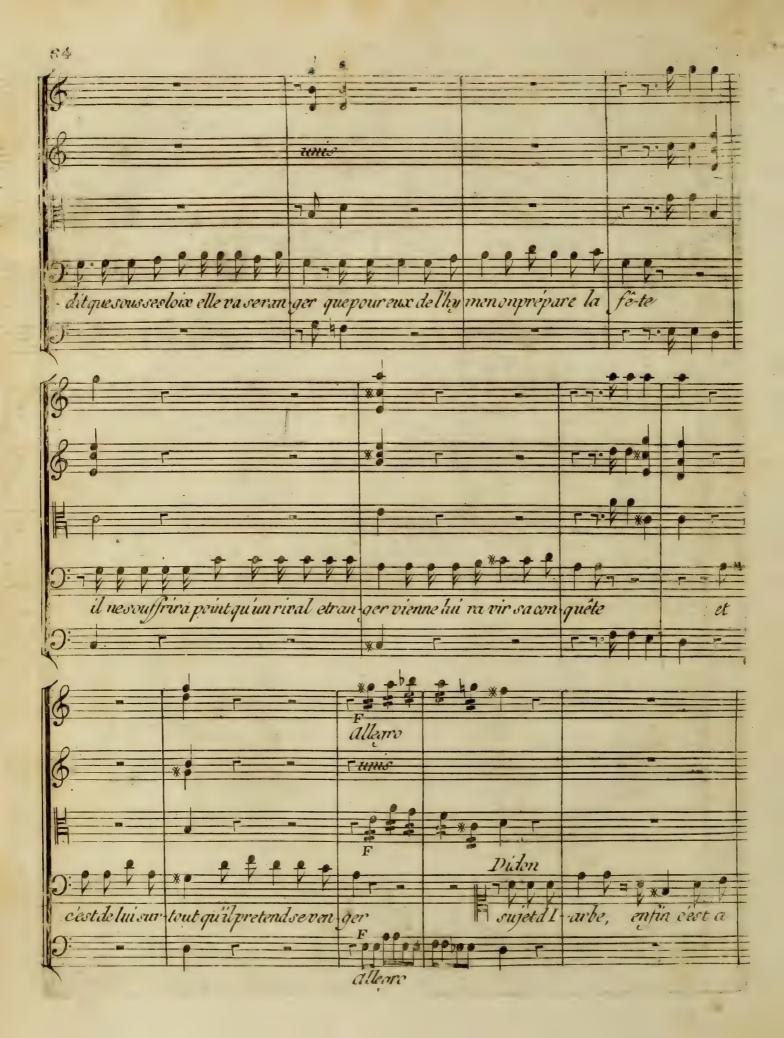


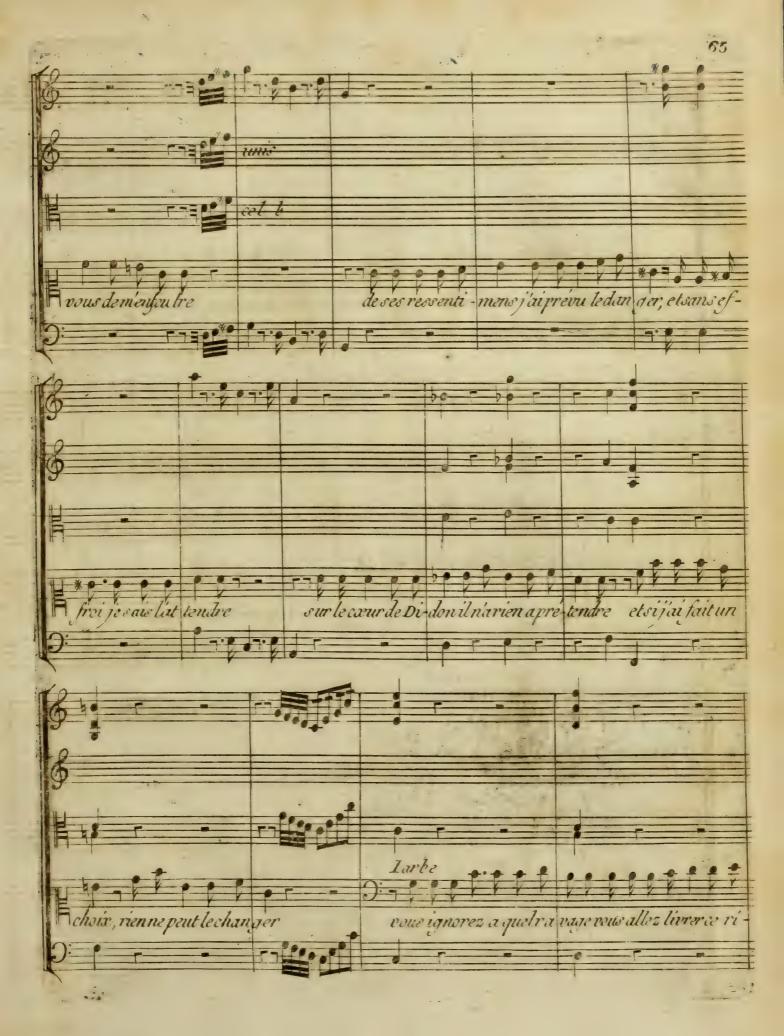


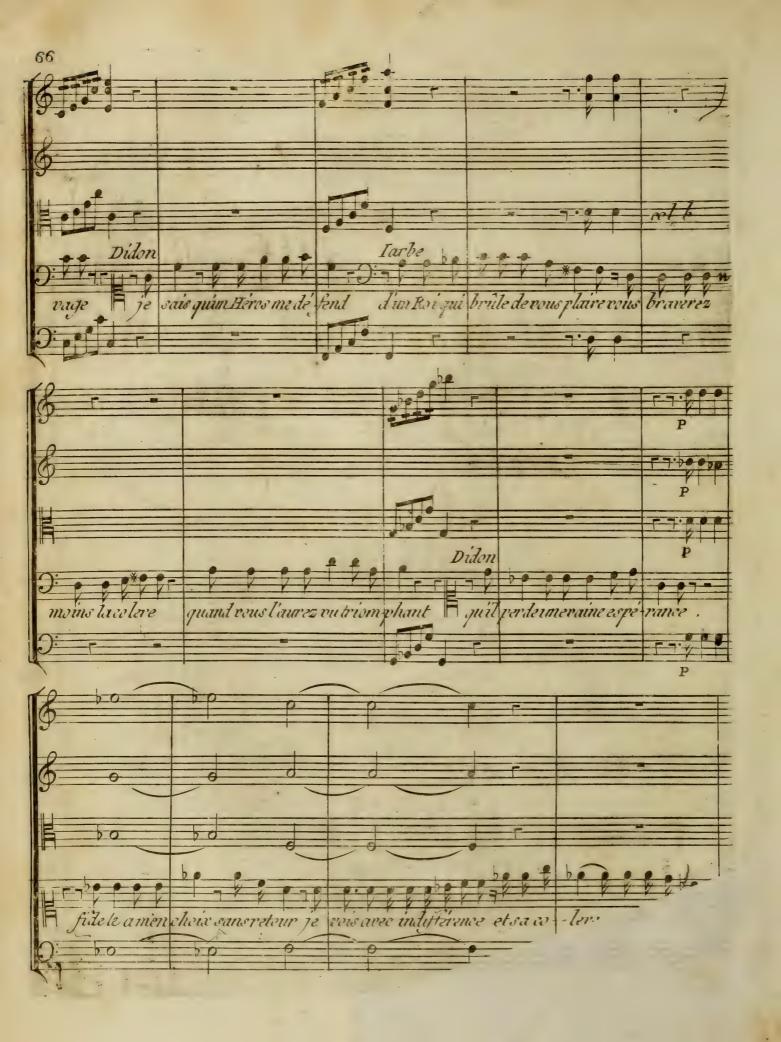


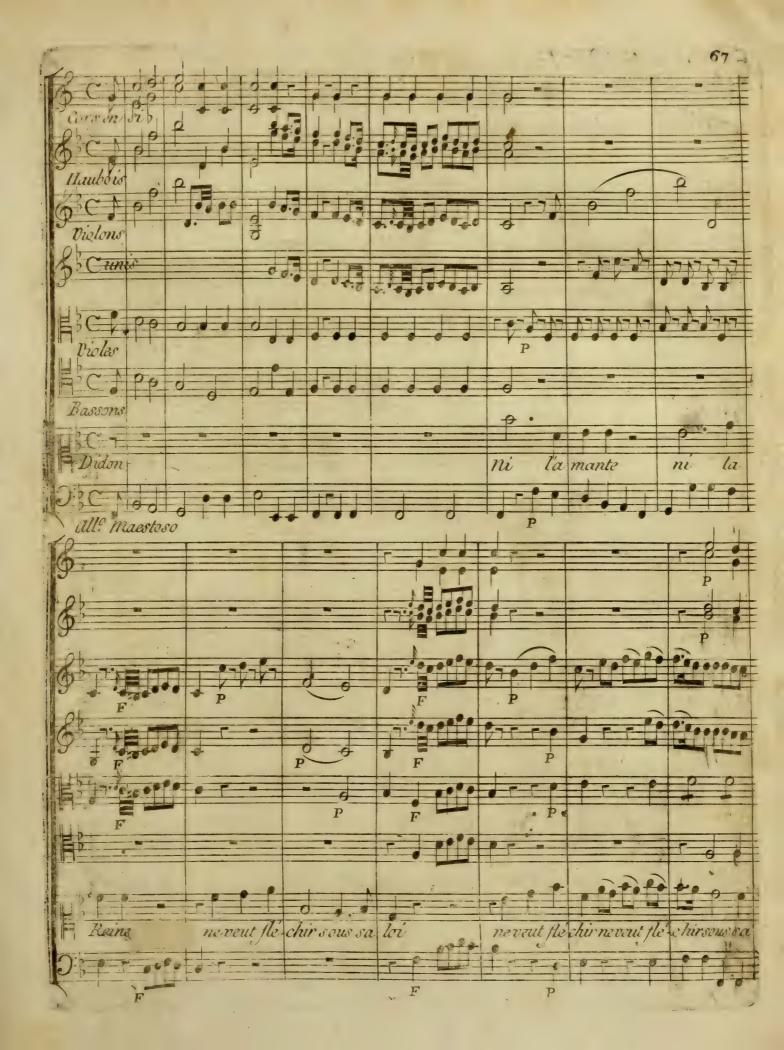


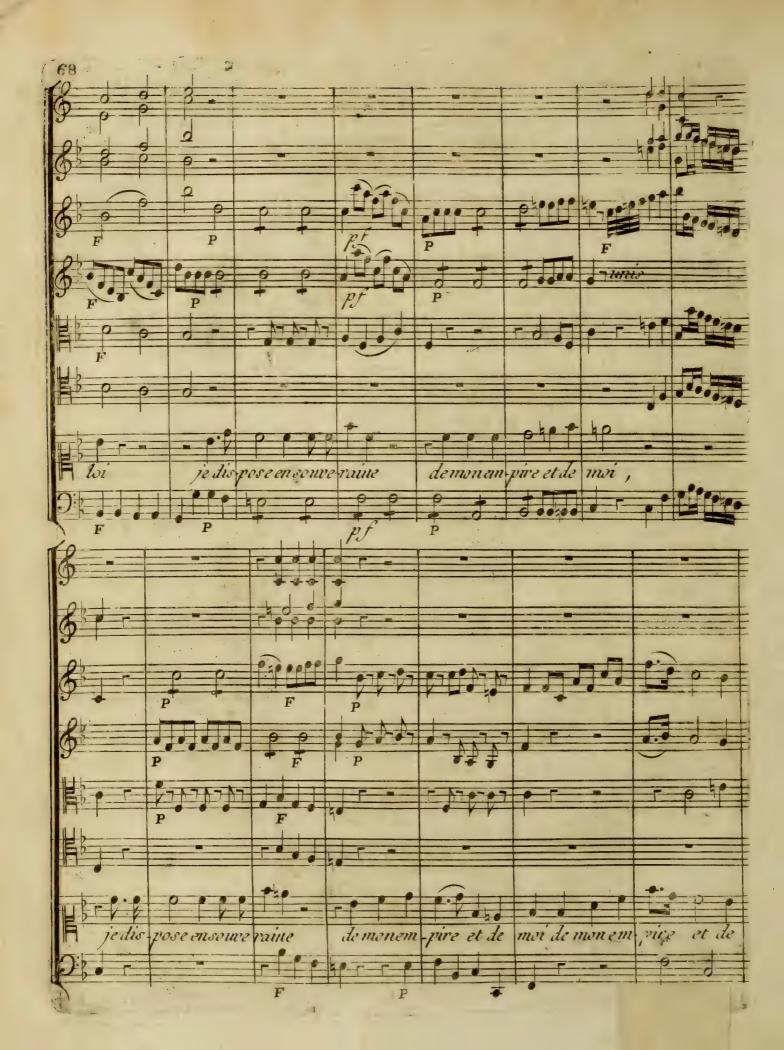


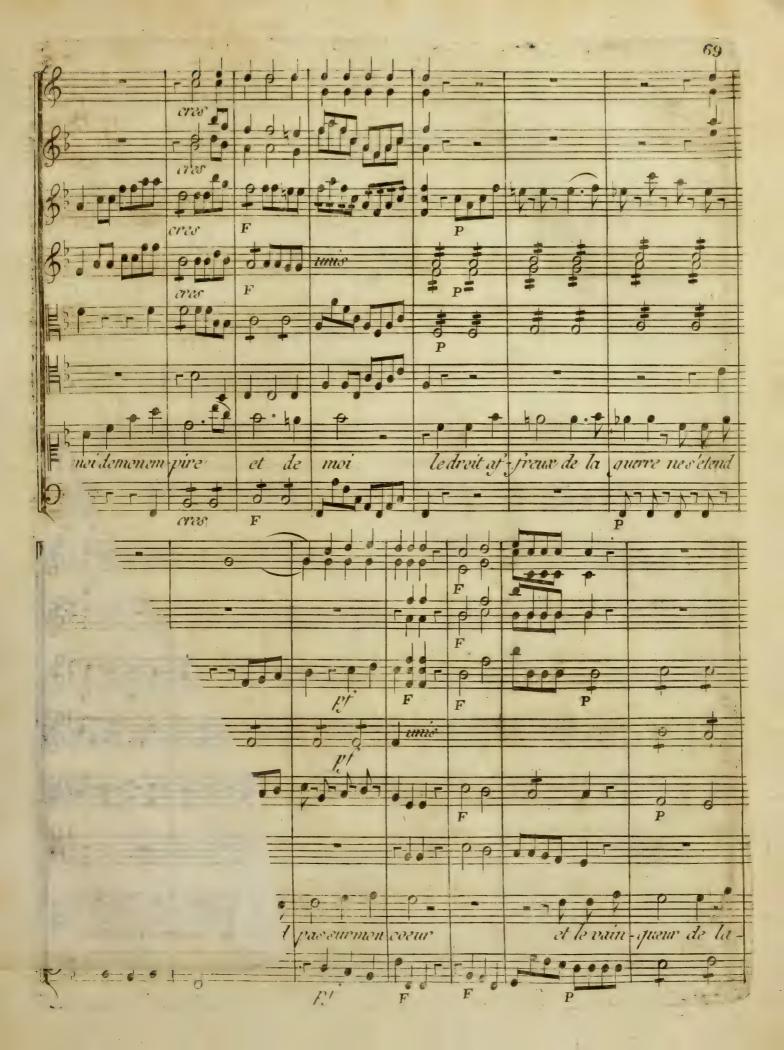


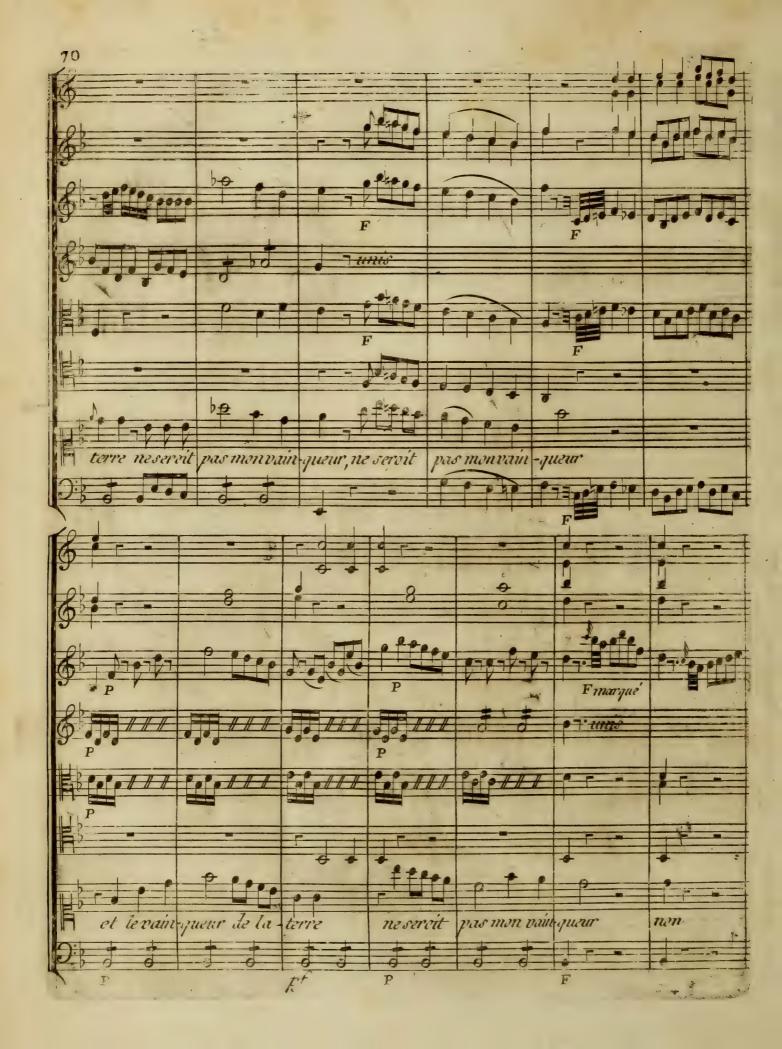




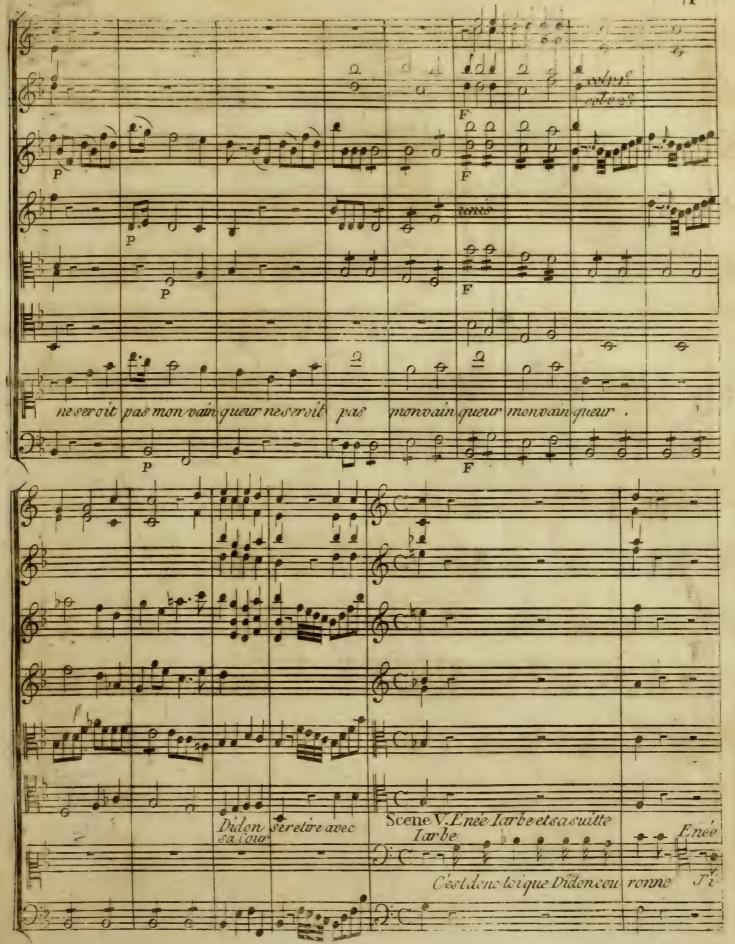


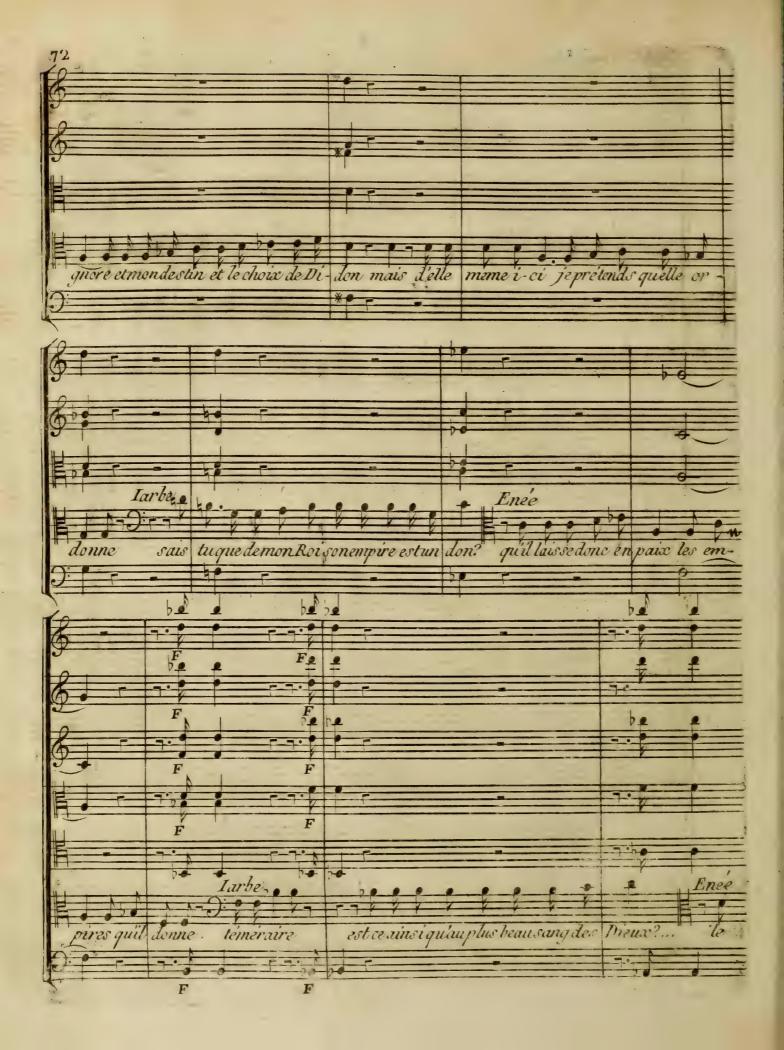


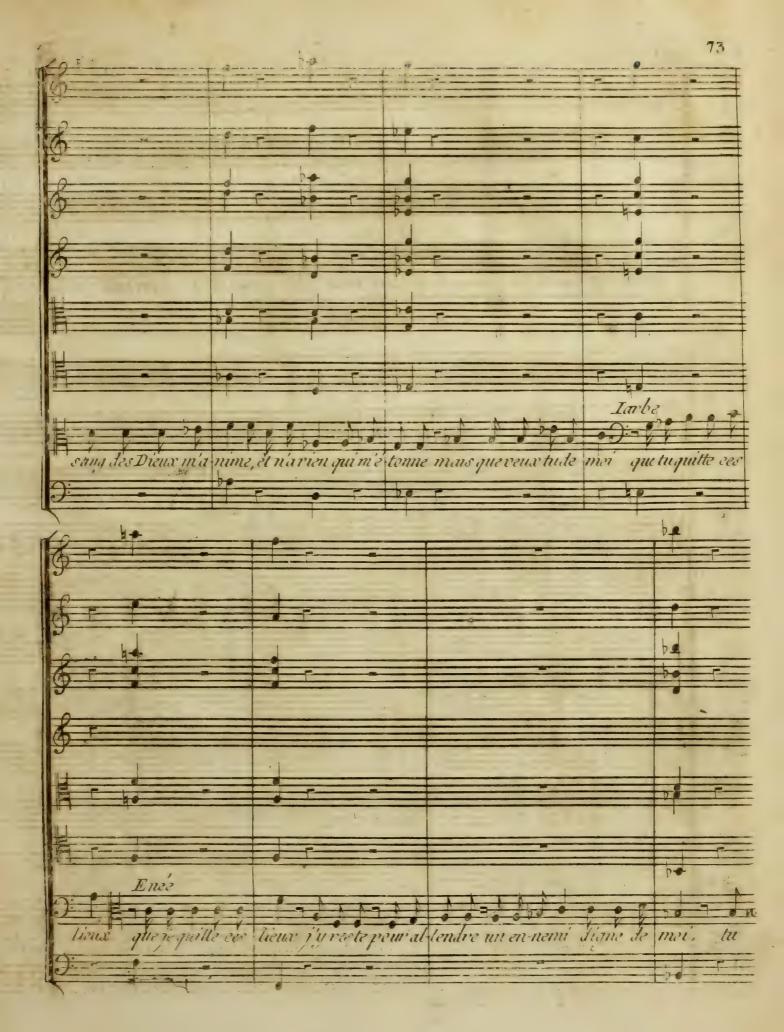


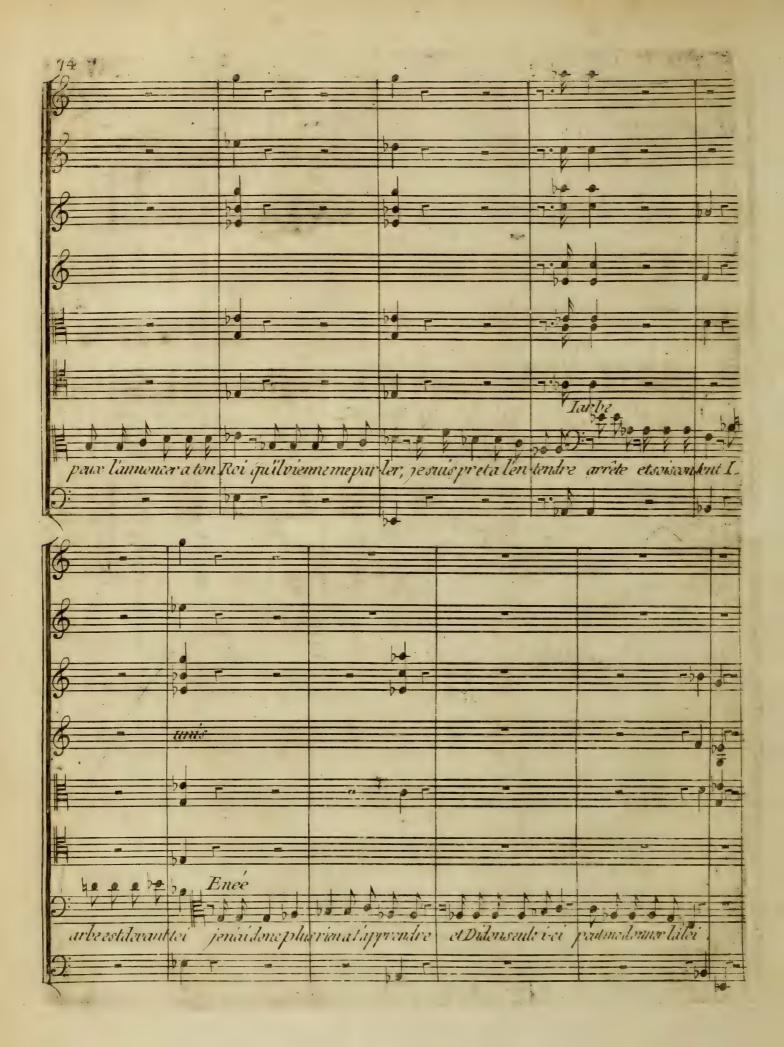


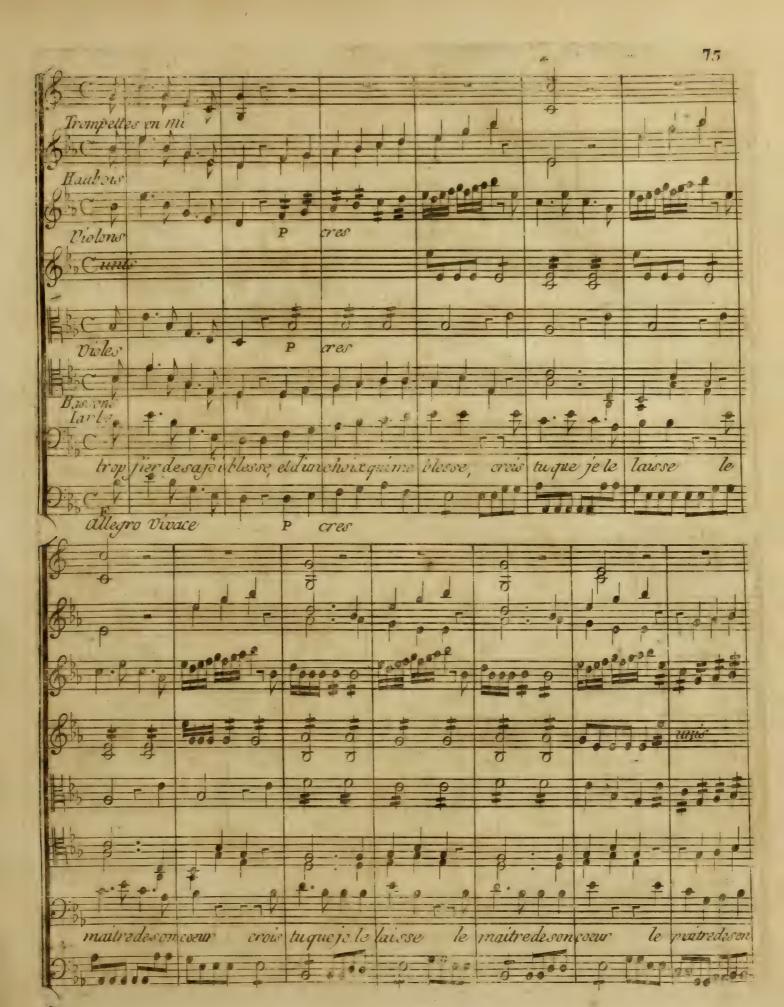


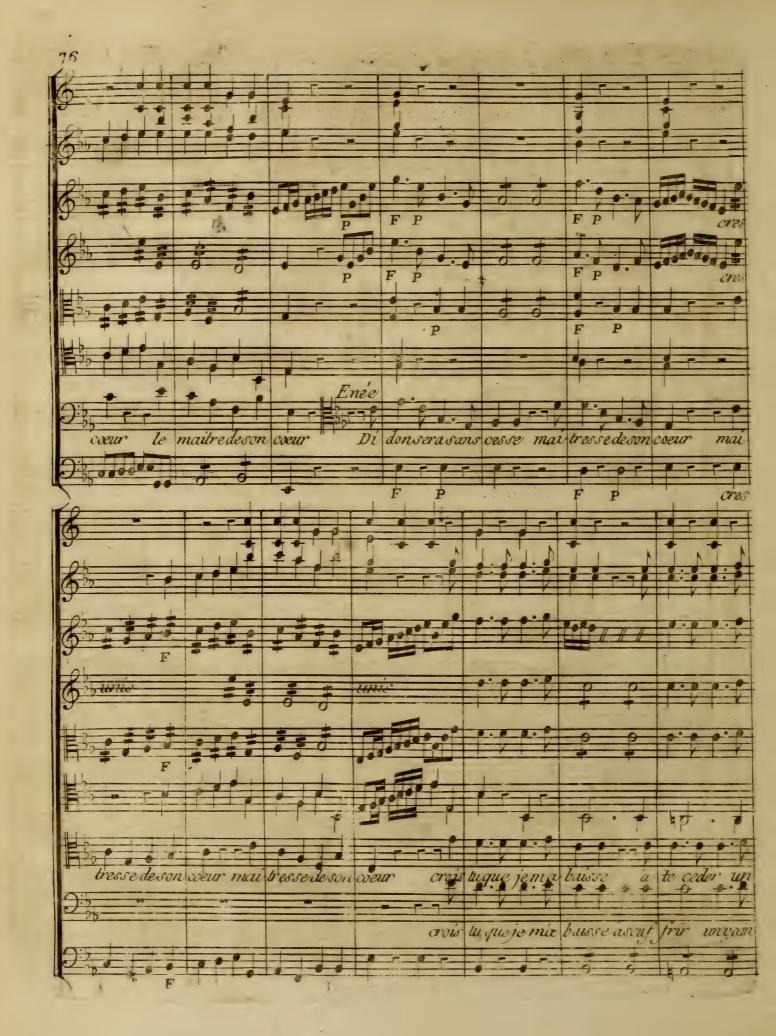




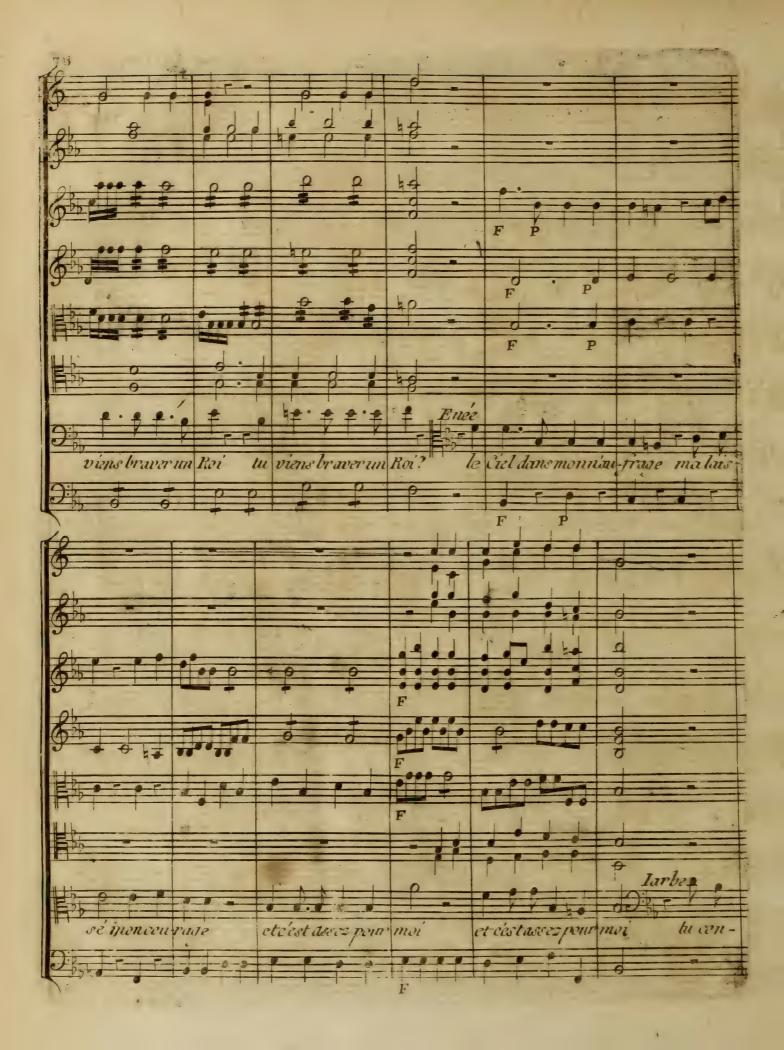


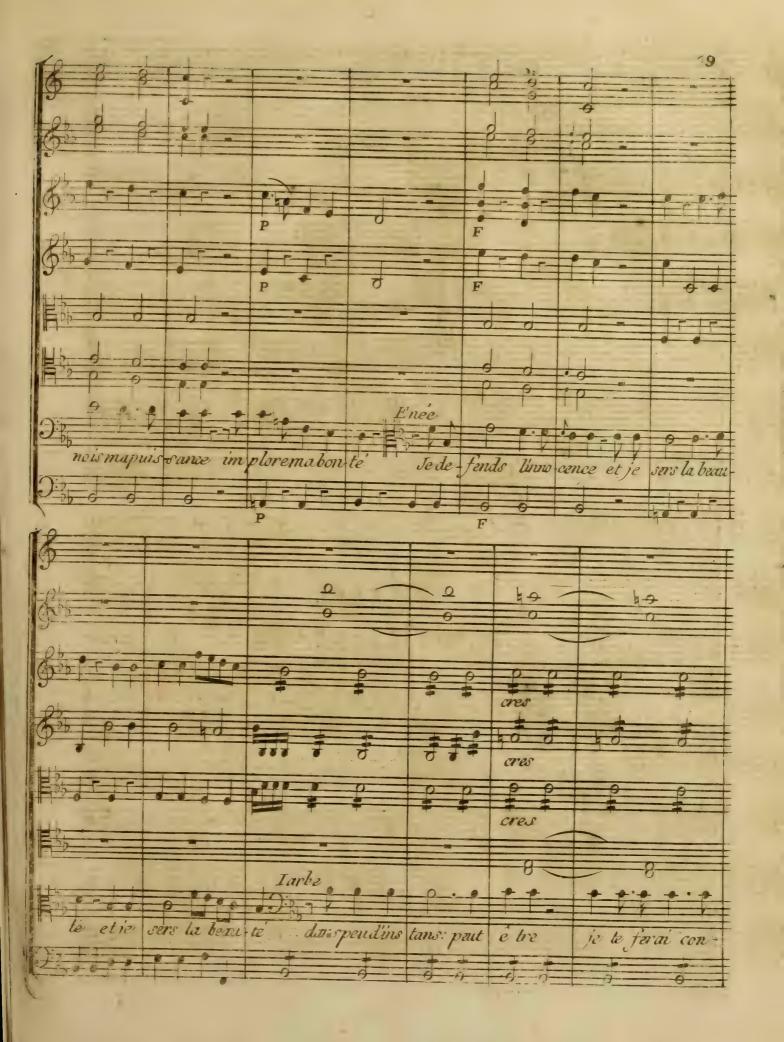


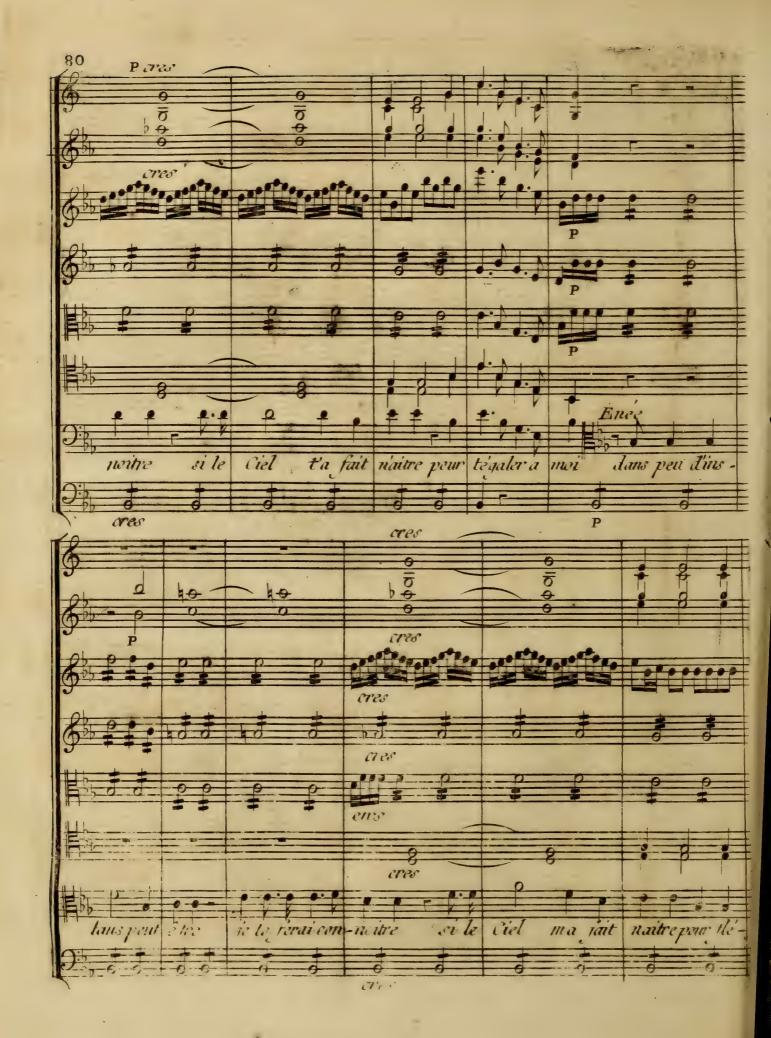


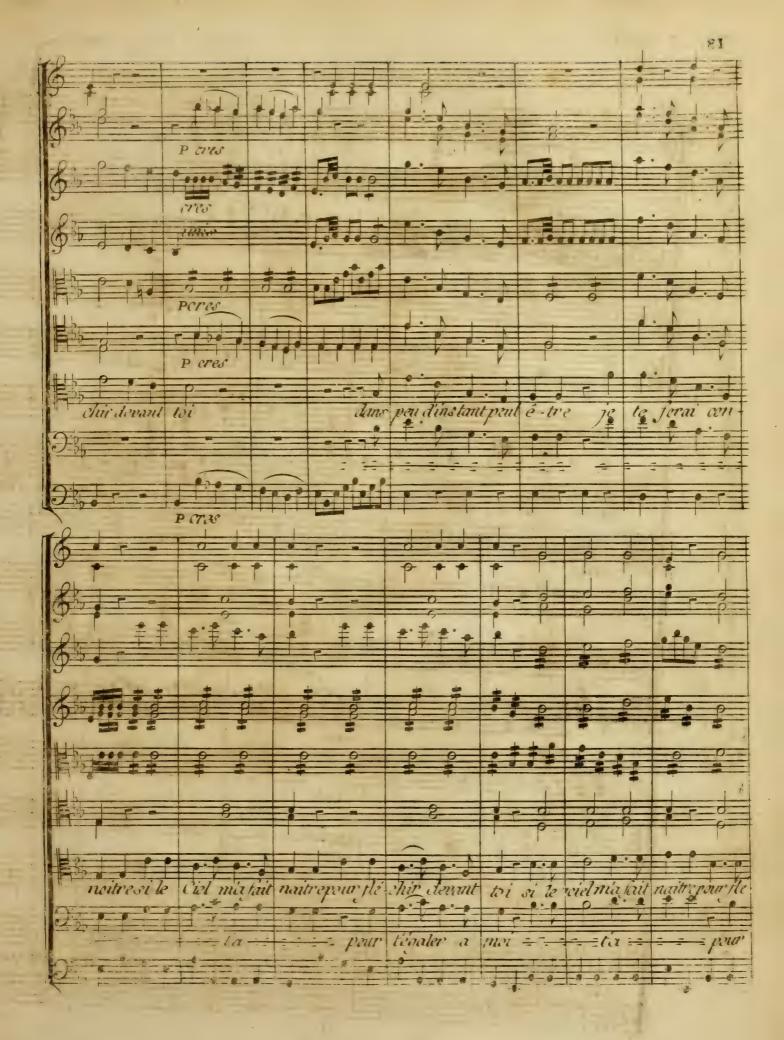


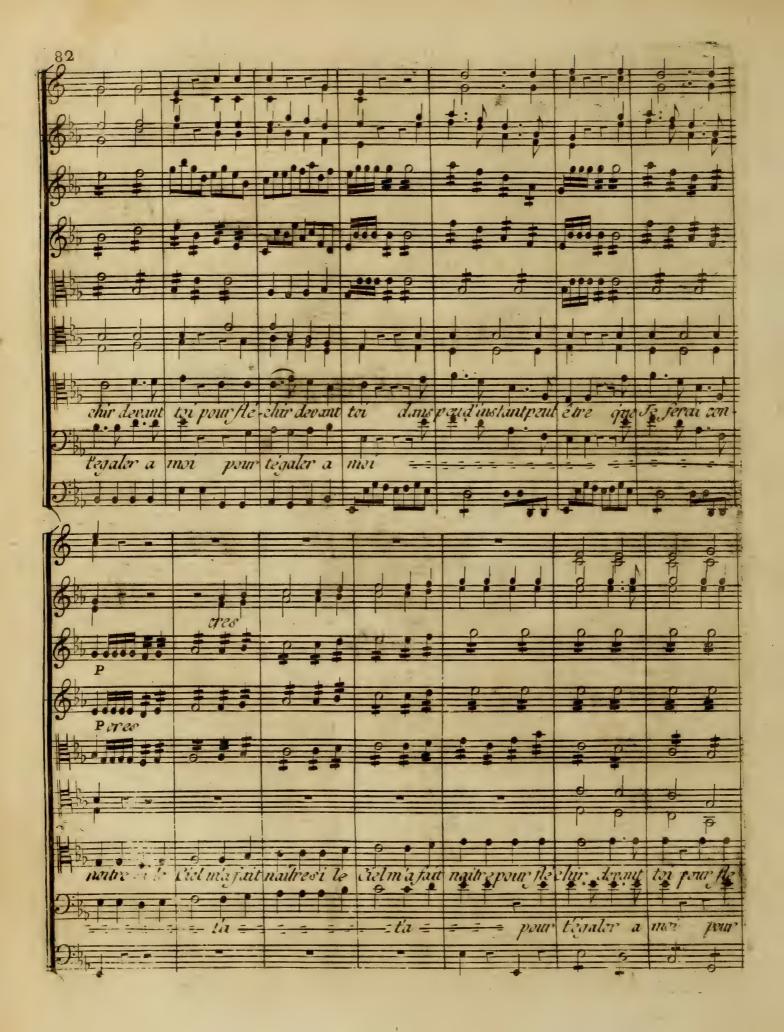










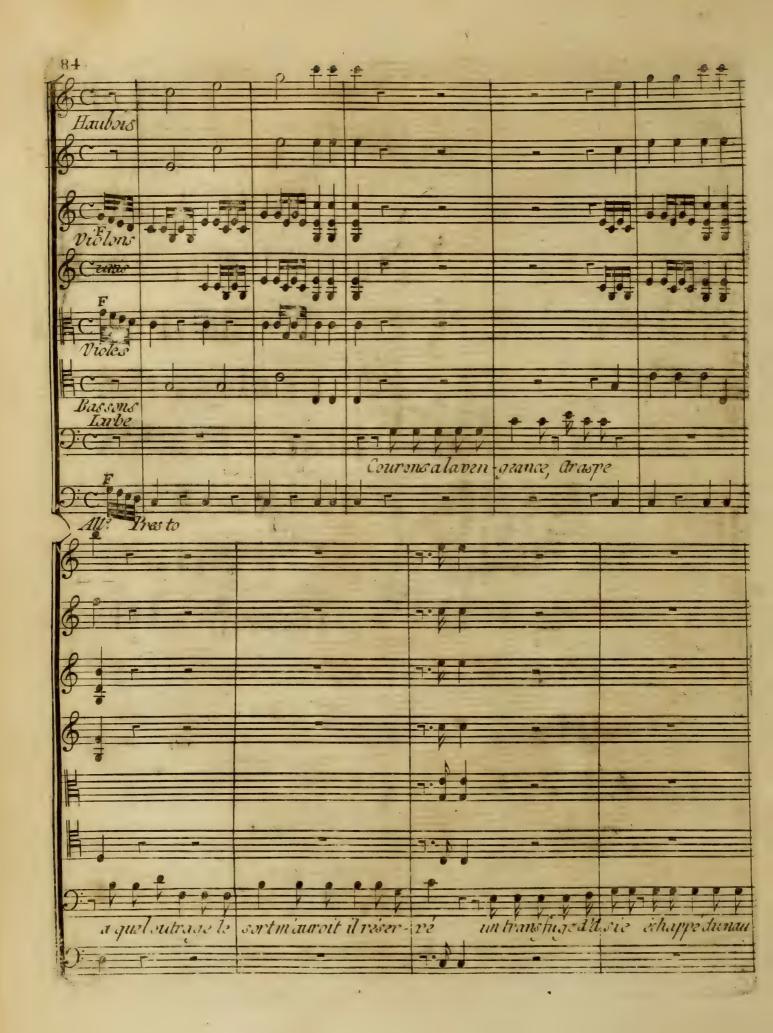


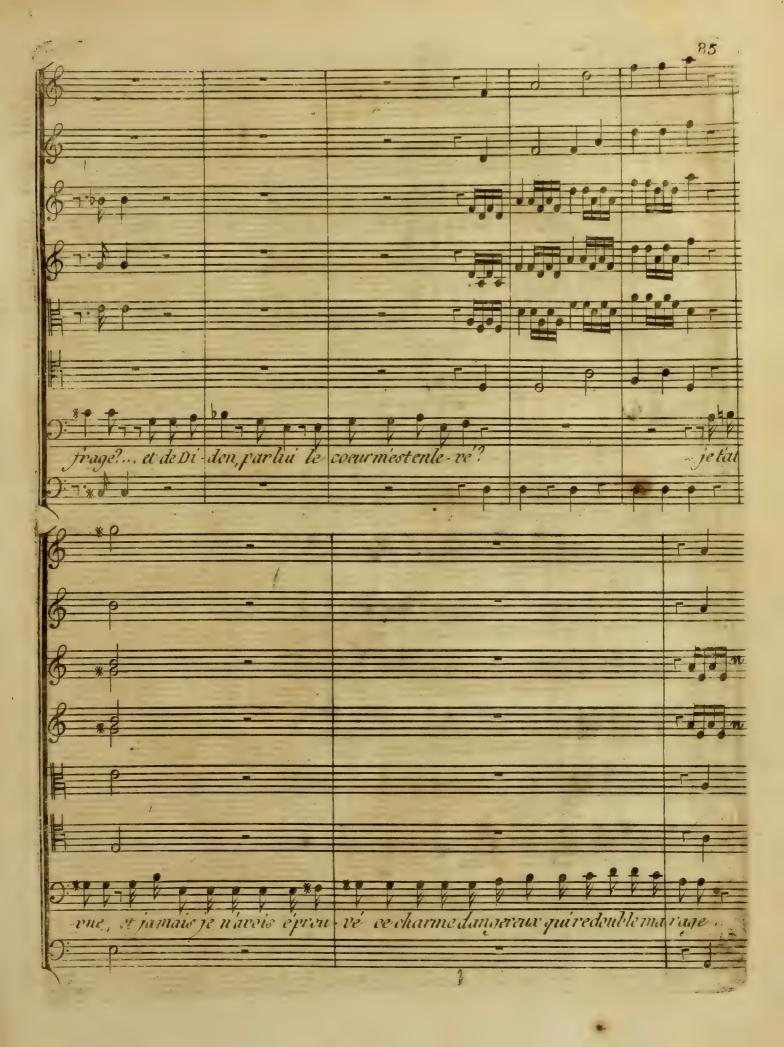


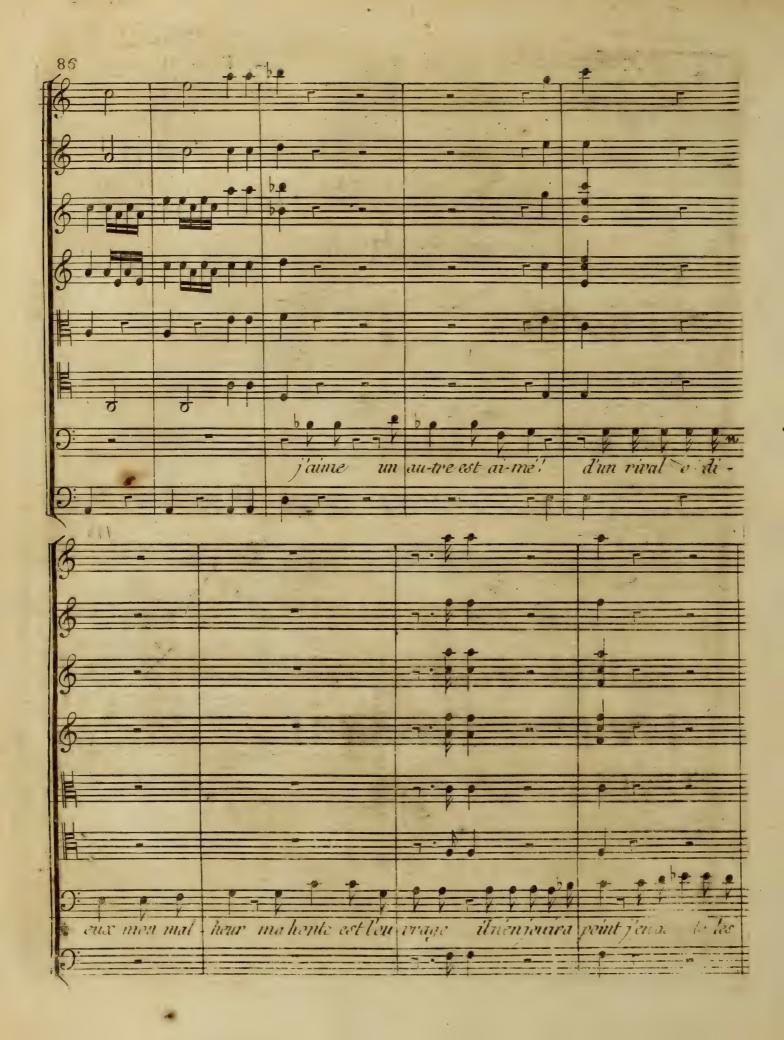


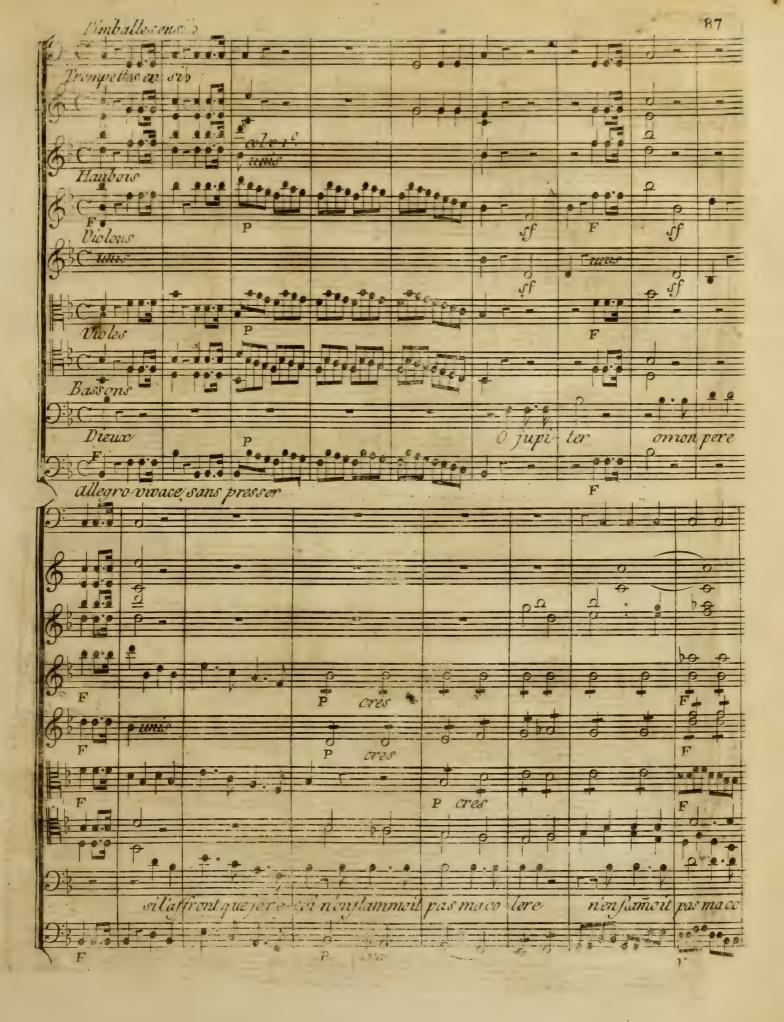


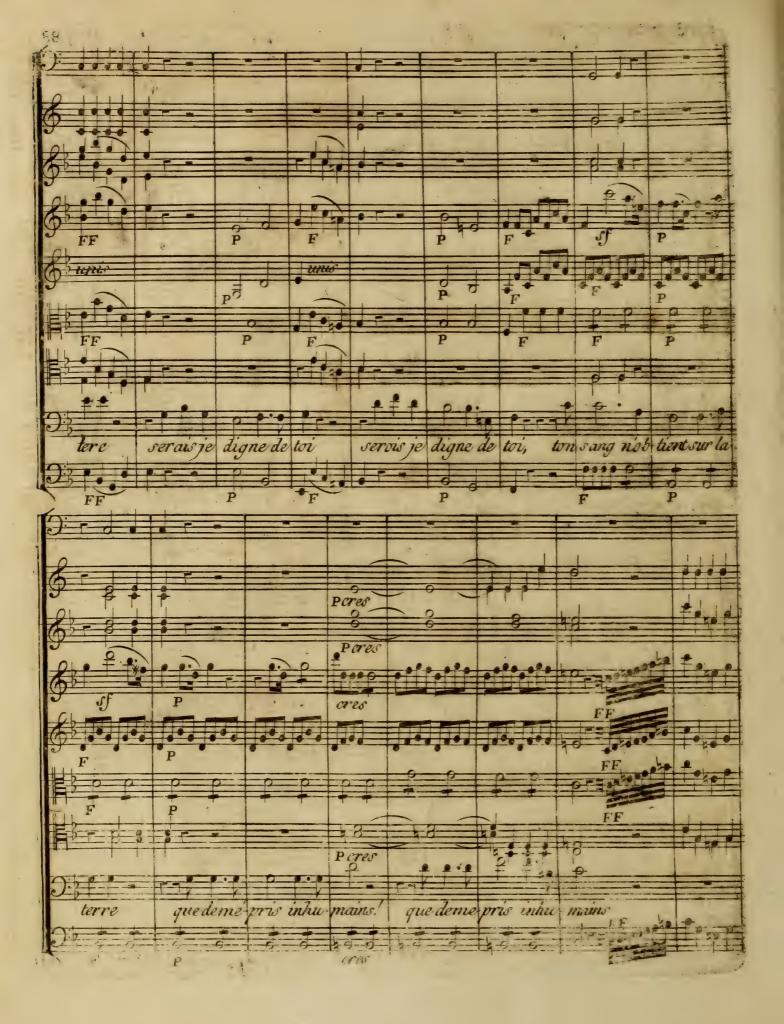
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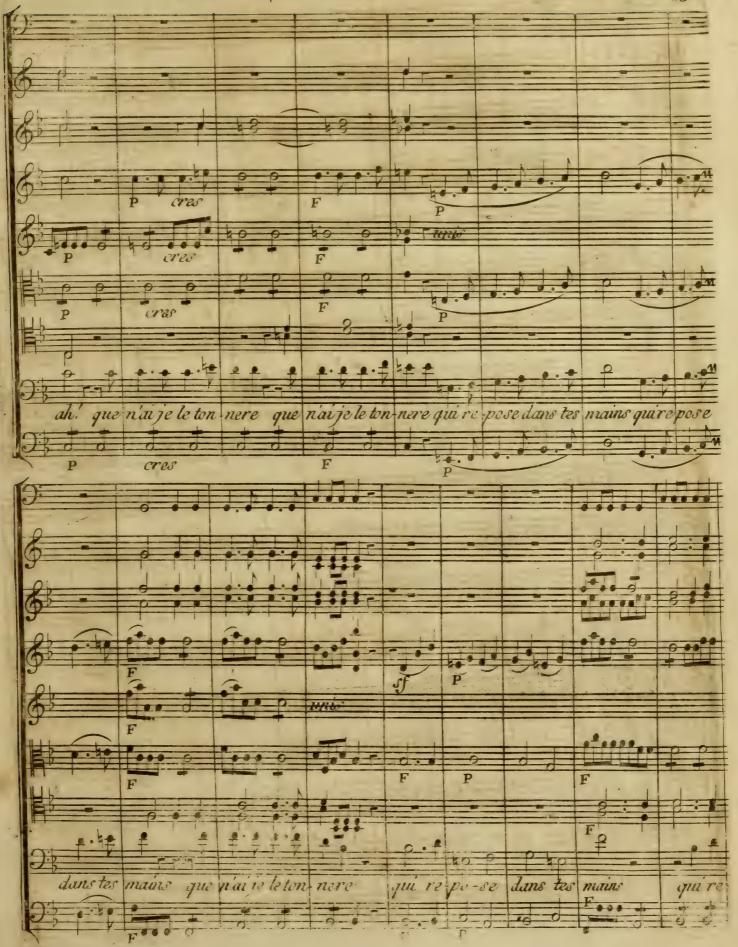


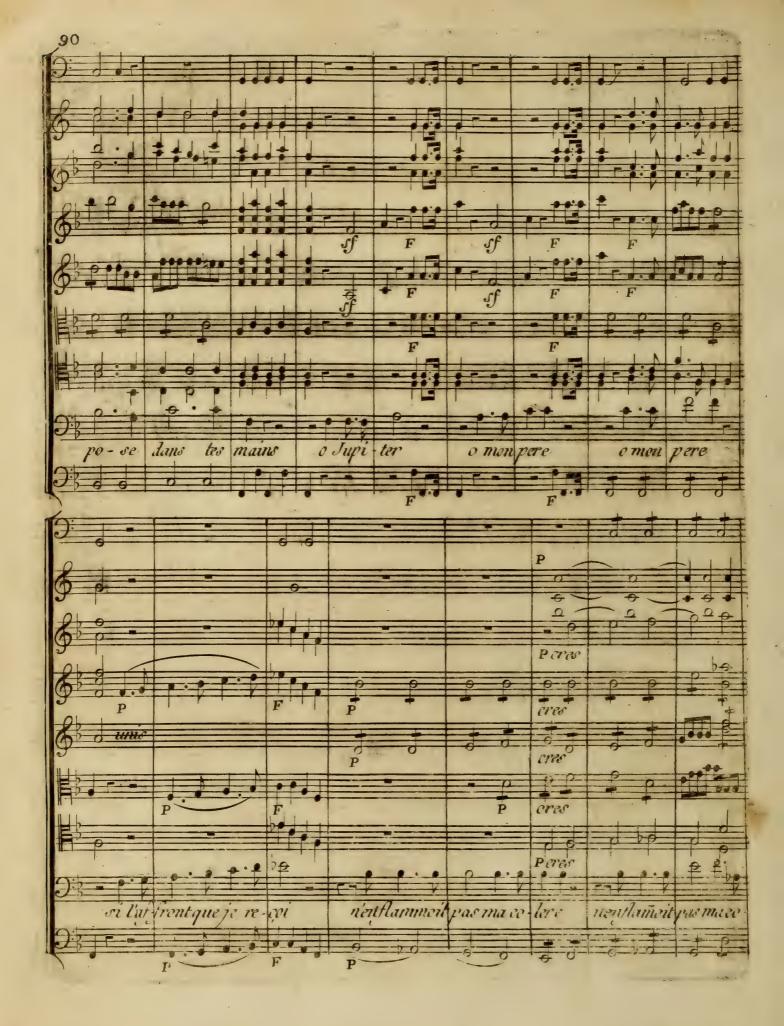


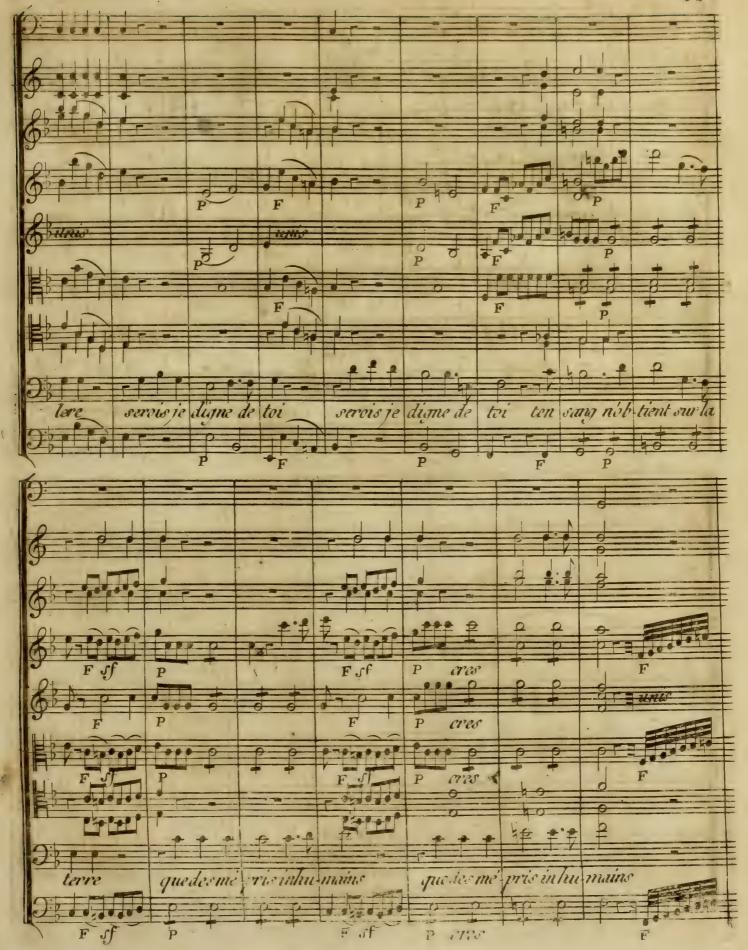


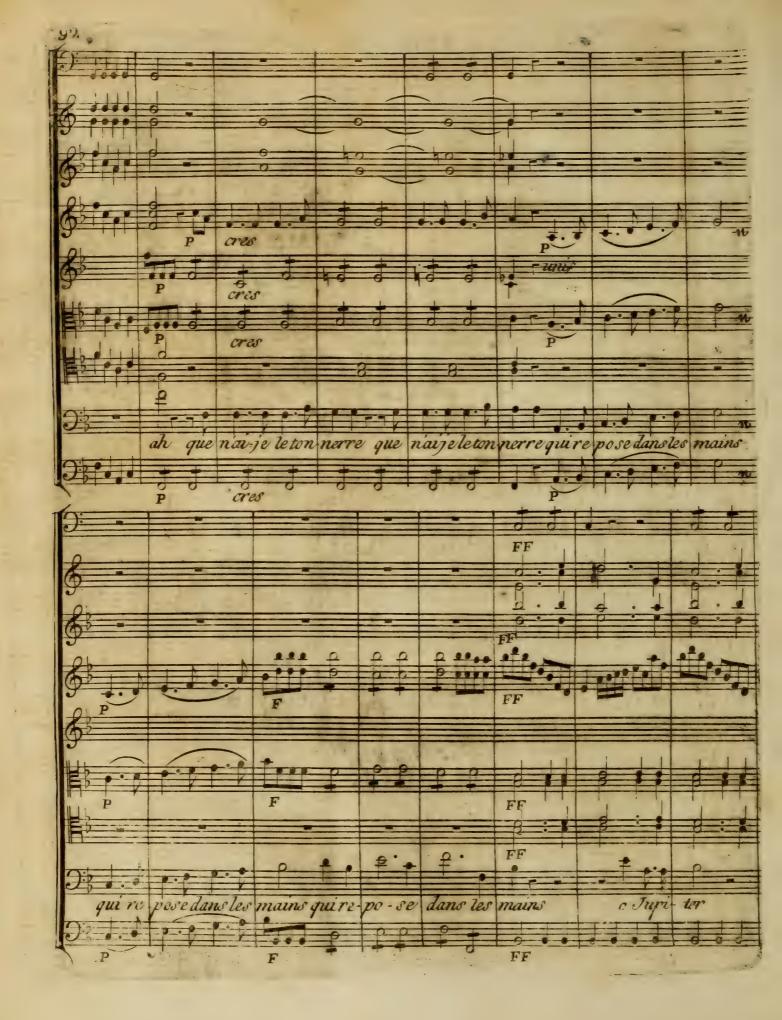




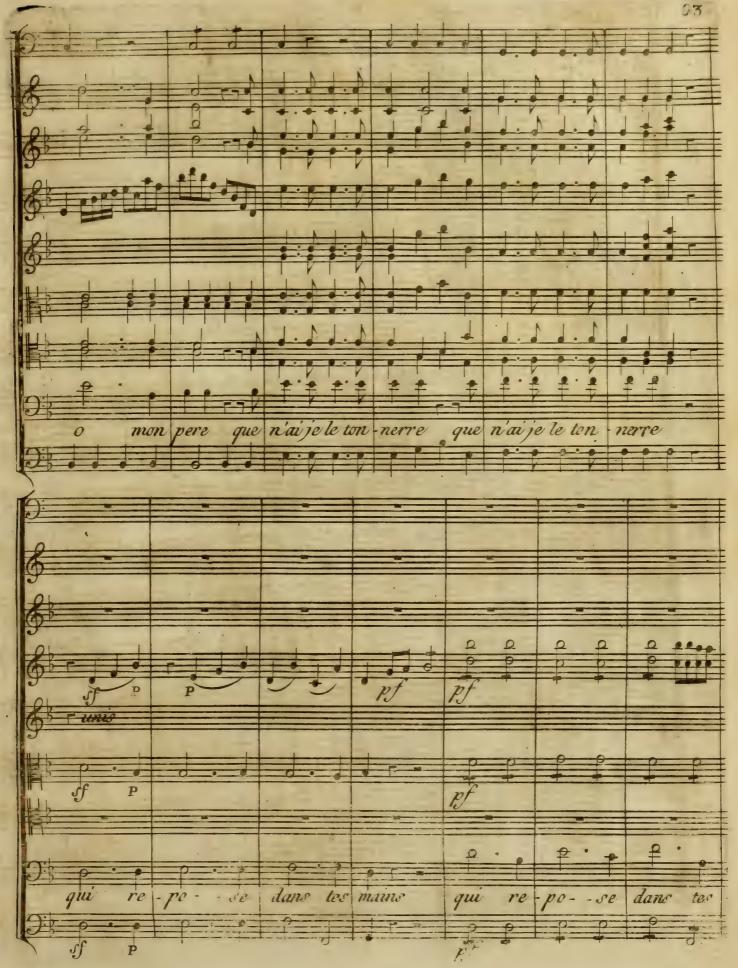


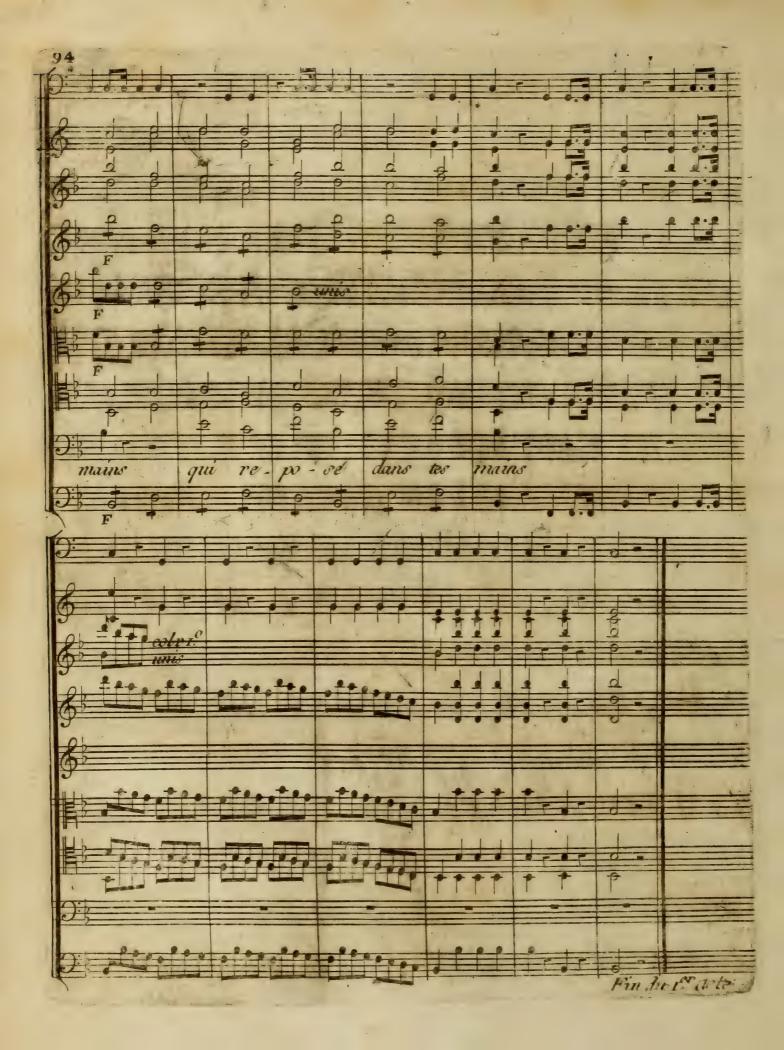










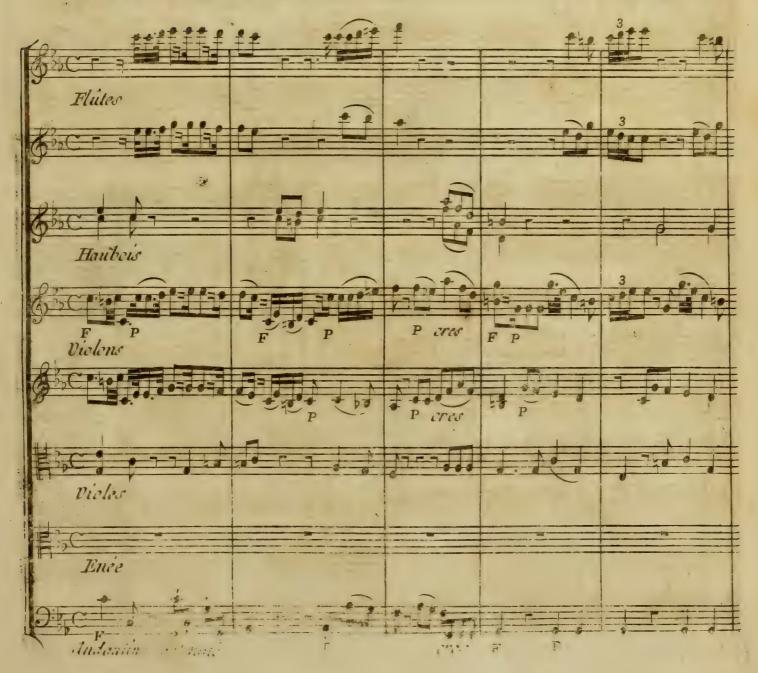


ACTE II

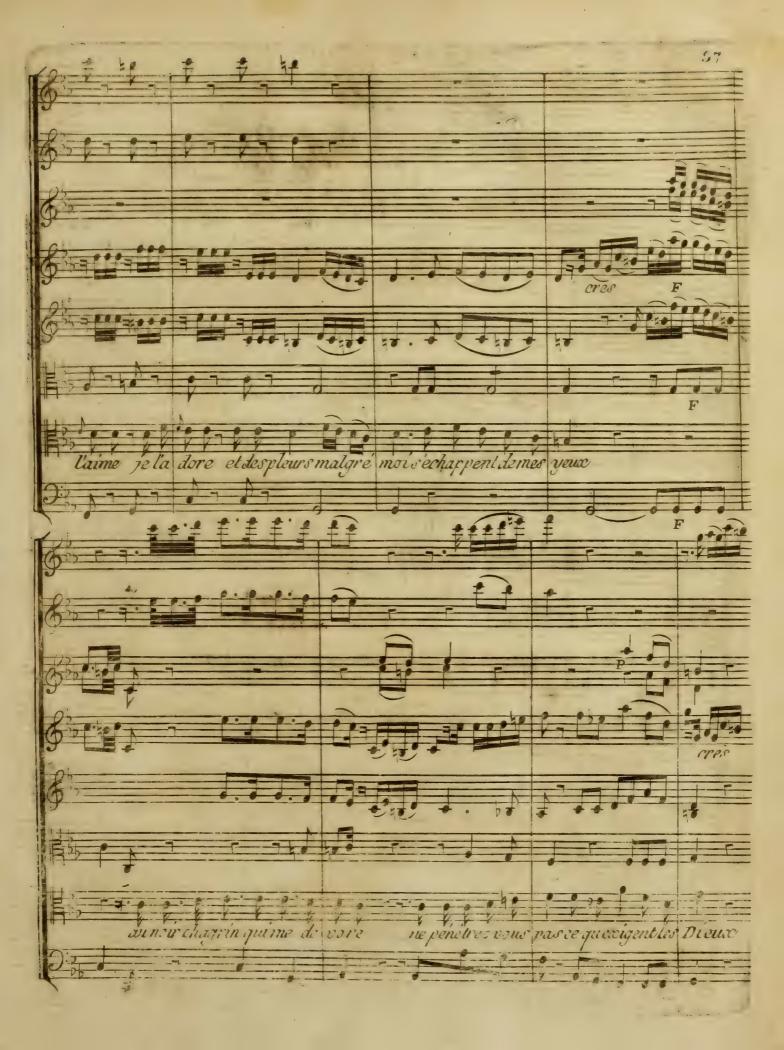
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SCENE PREMIERE.

Enee, Elise.

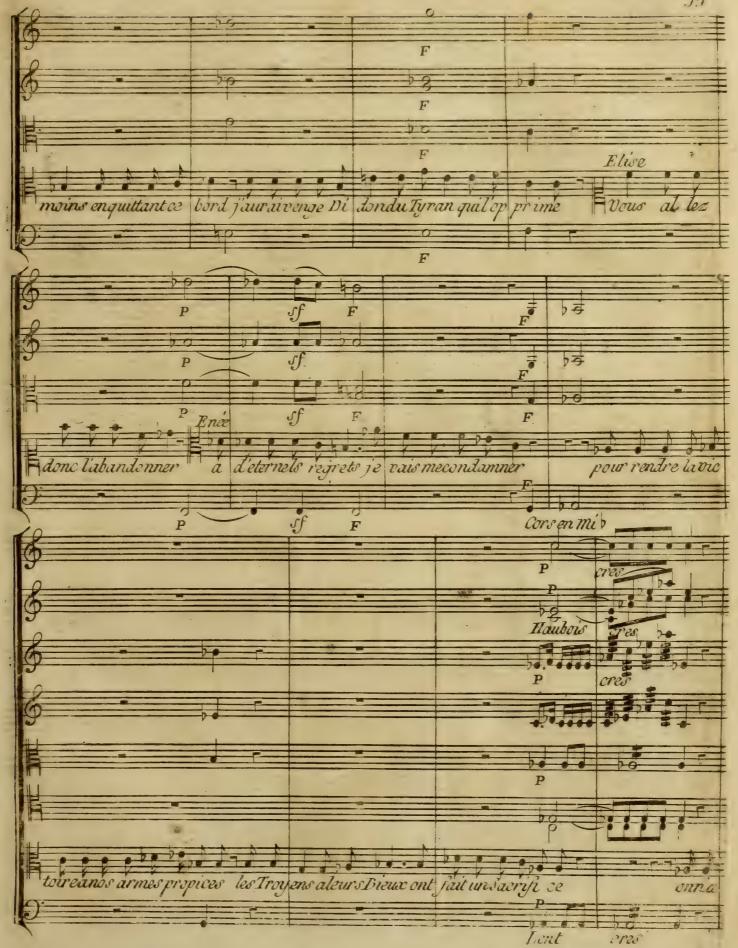


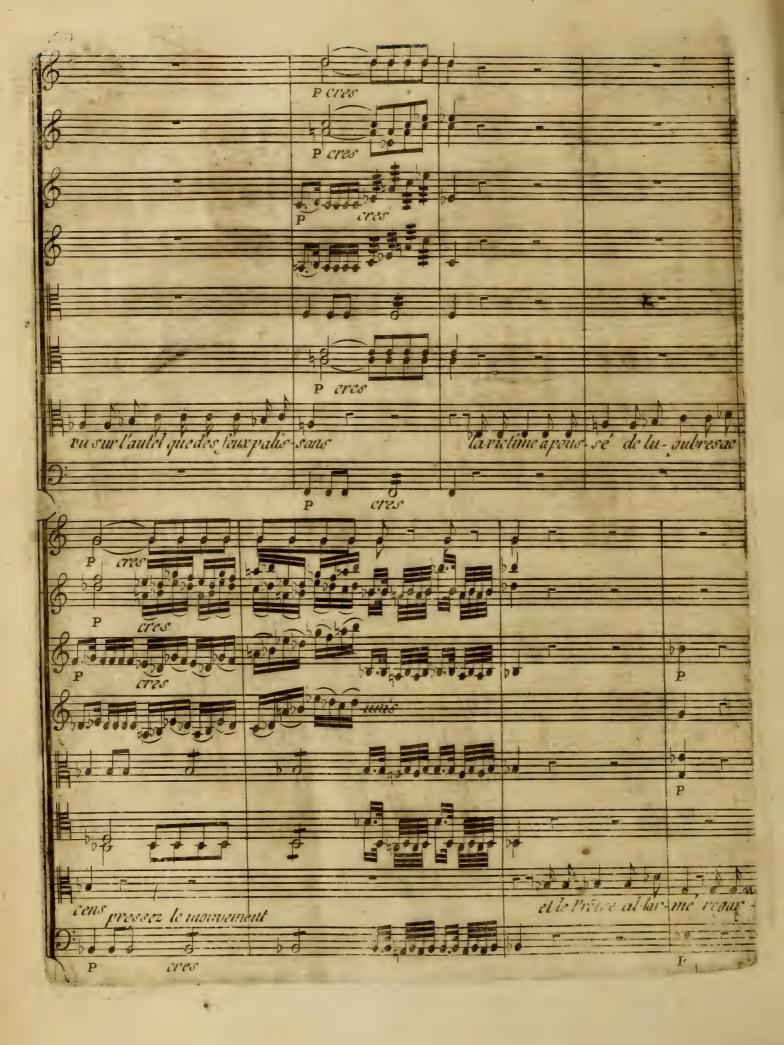




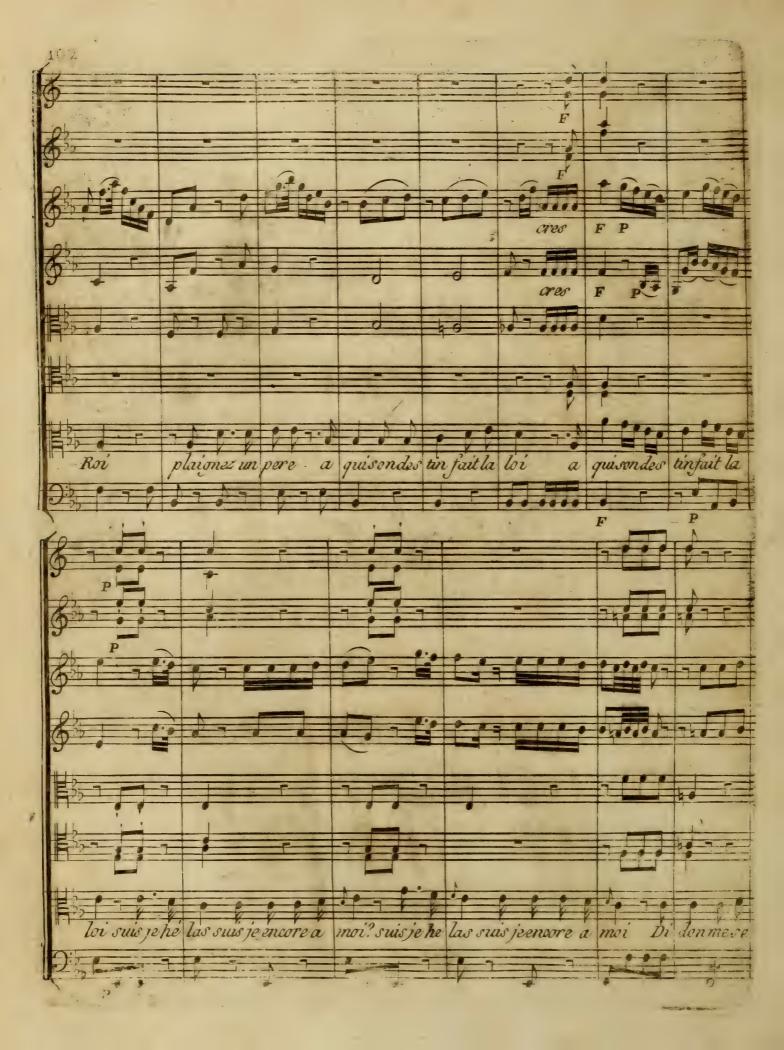




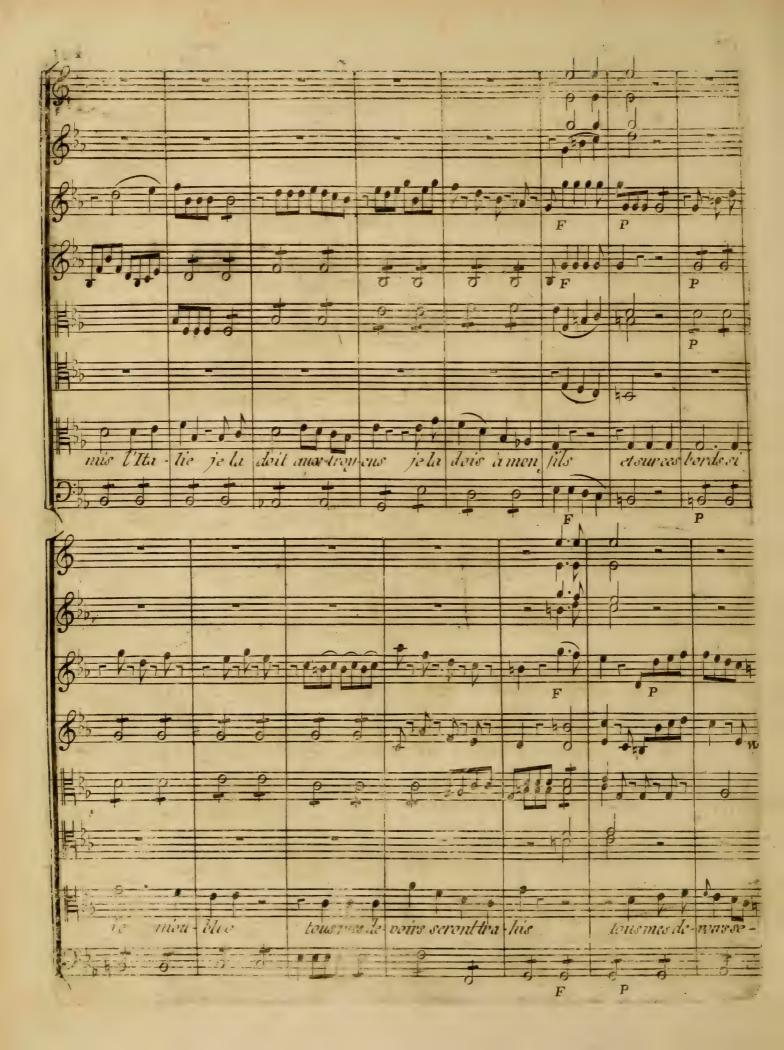




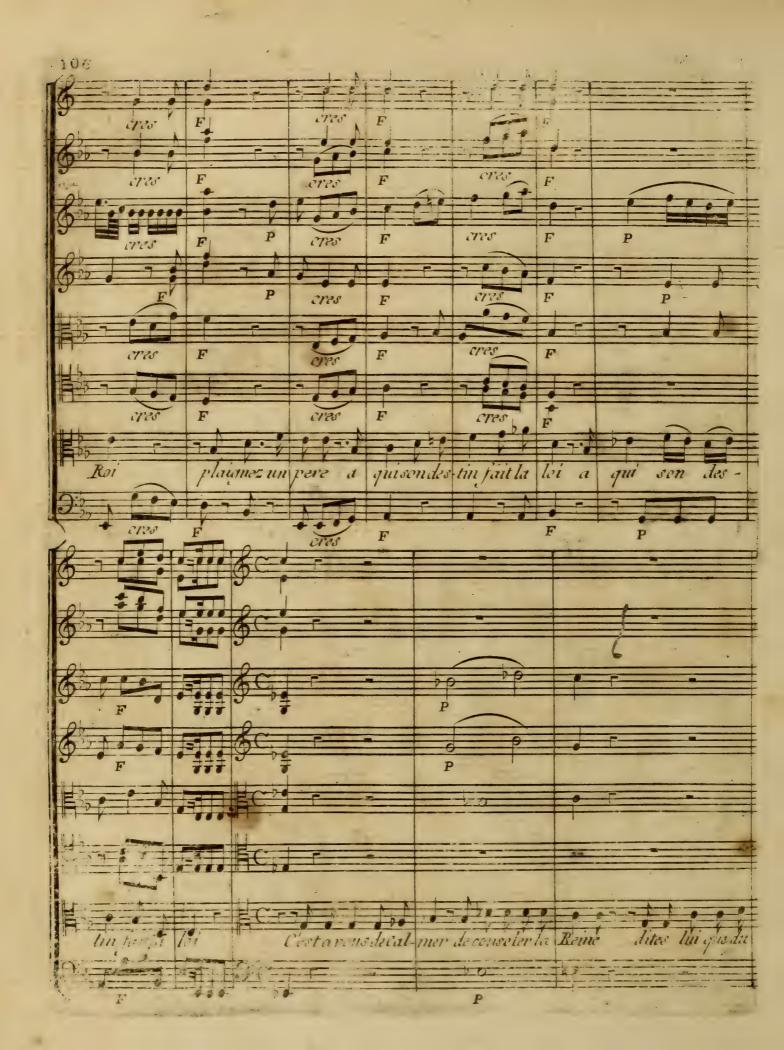




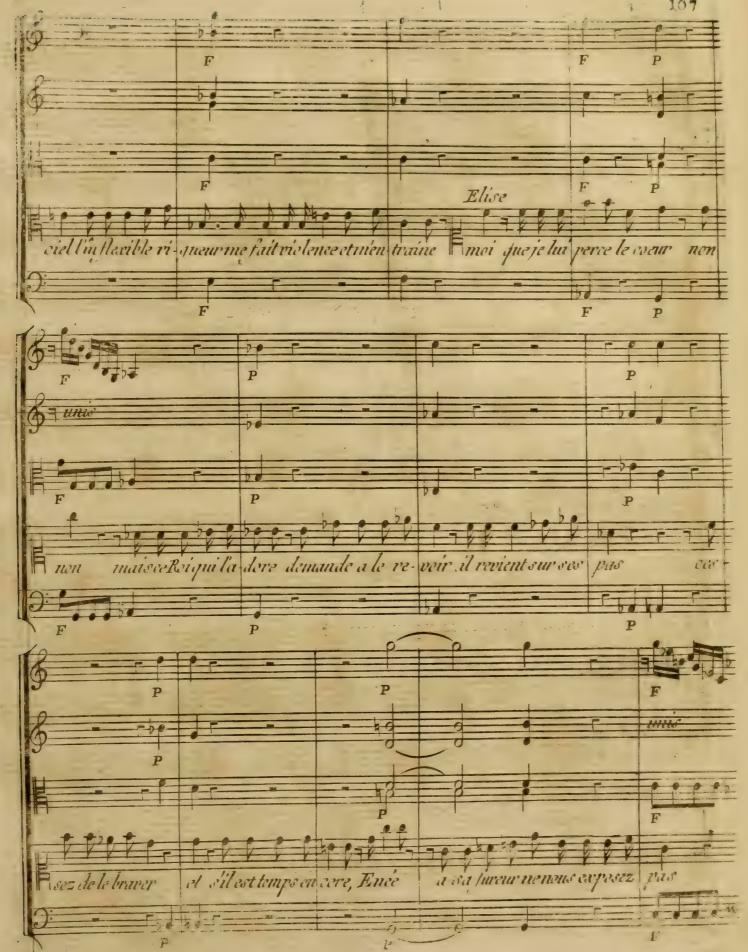


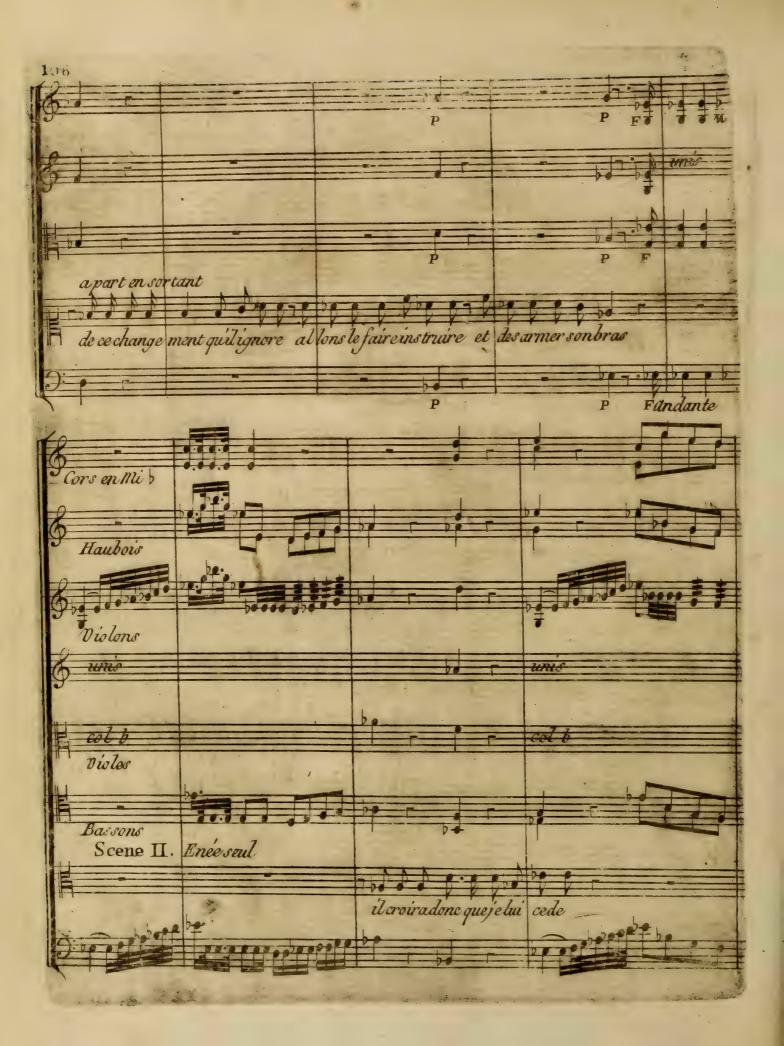




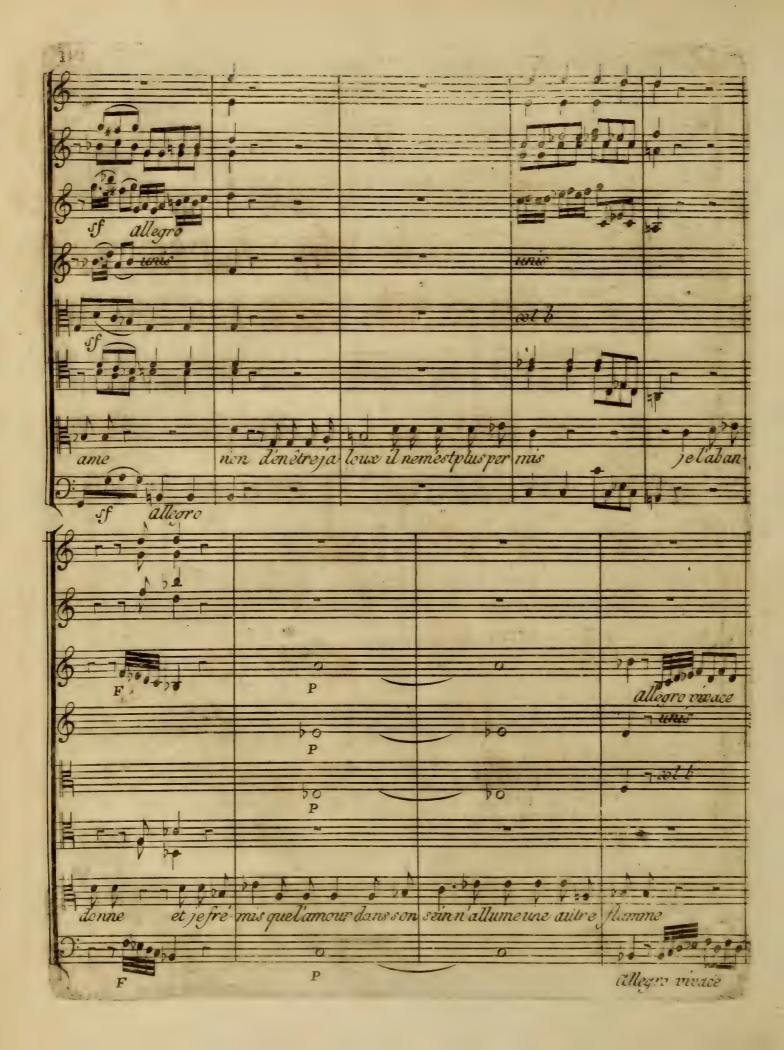






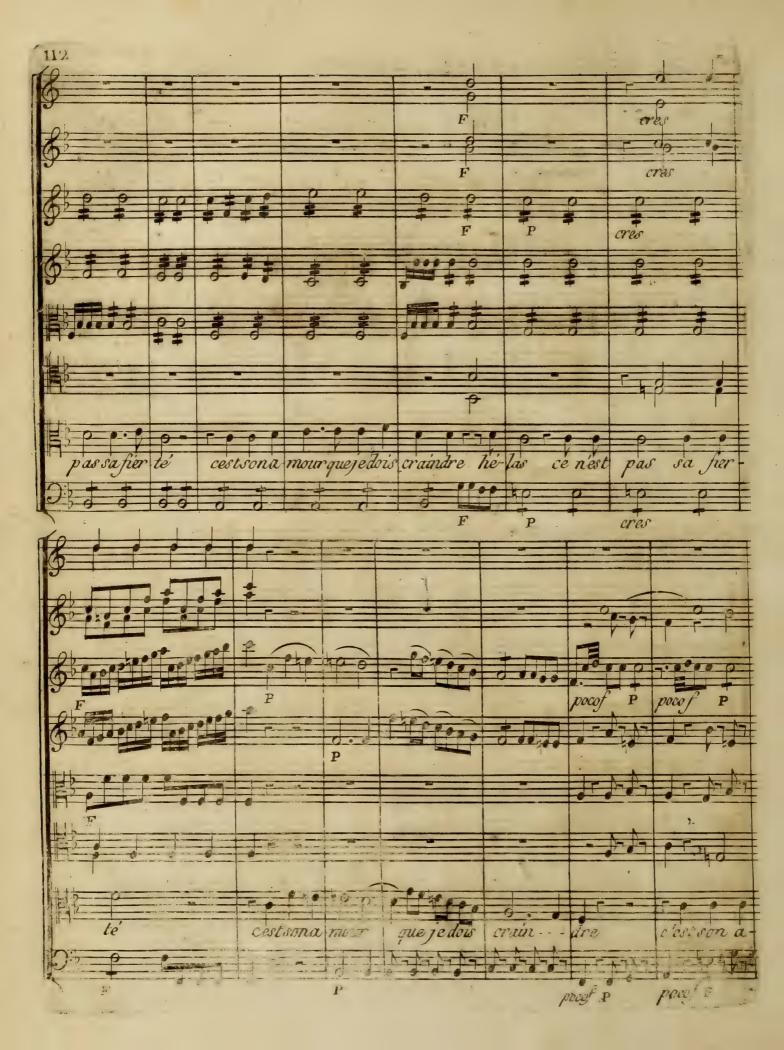


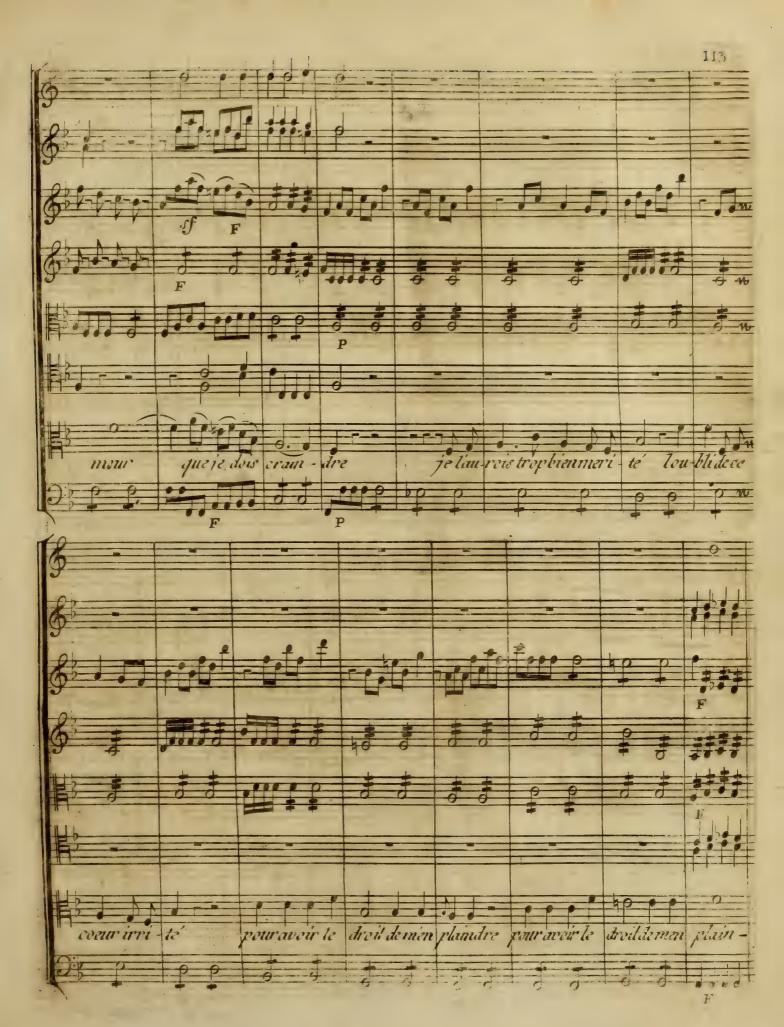




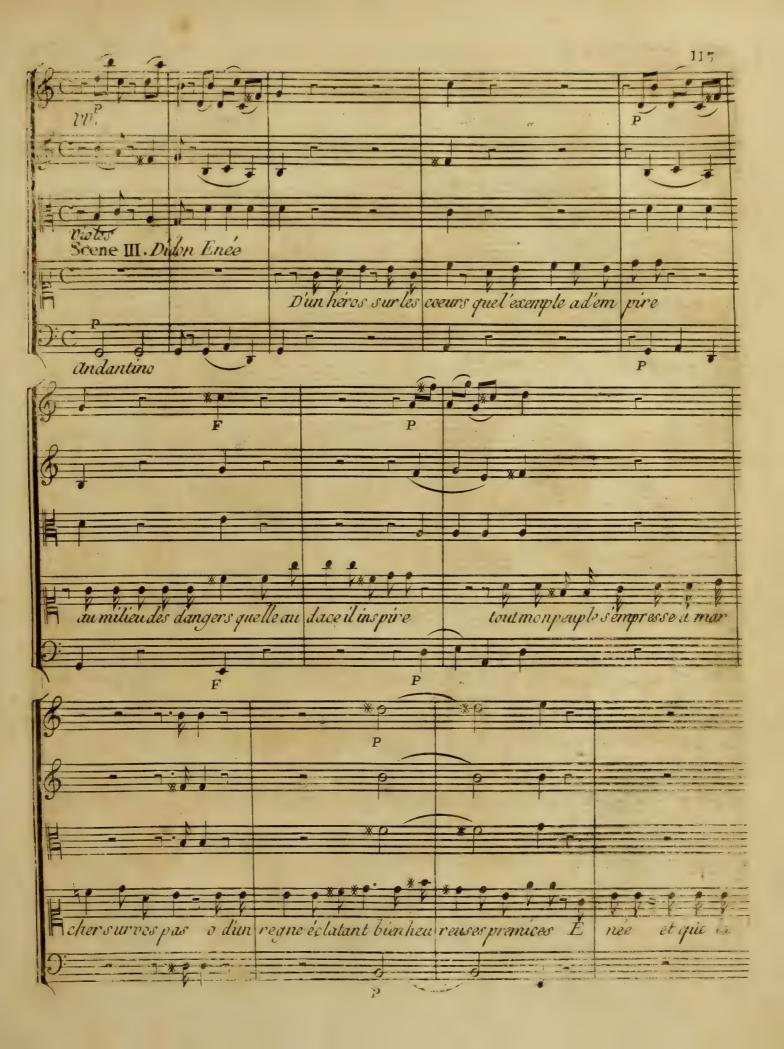


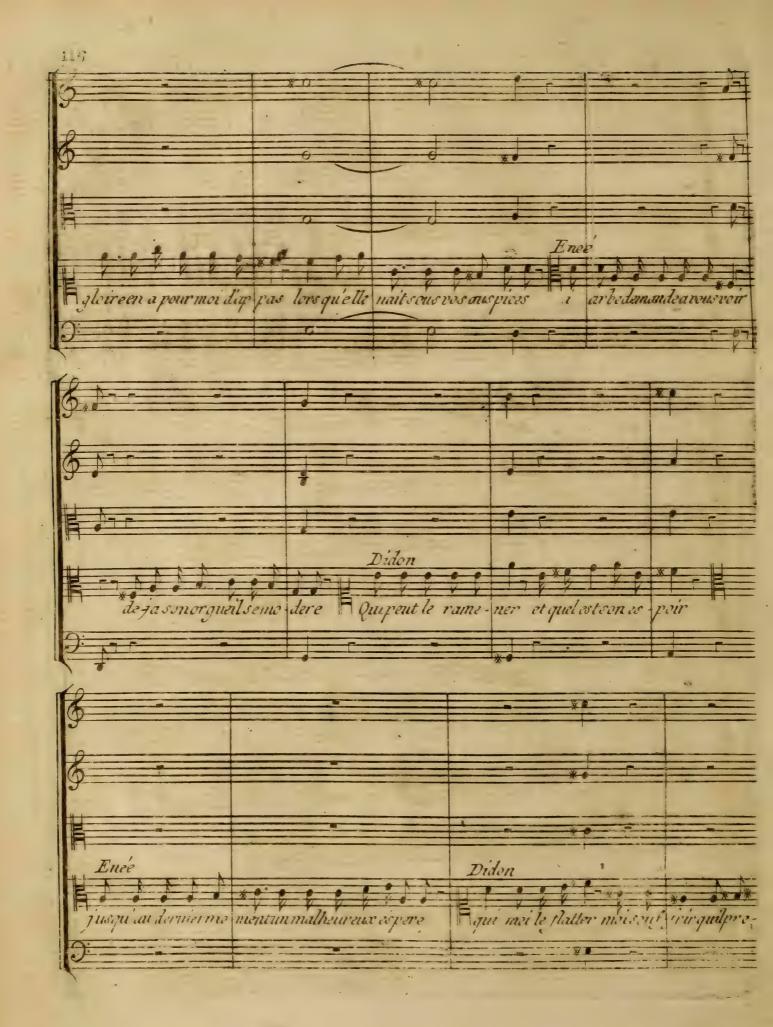


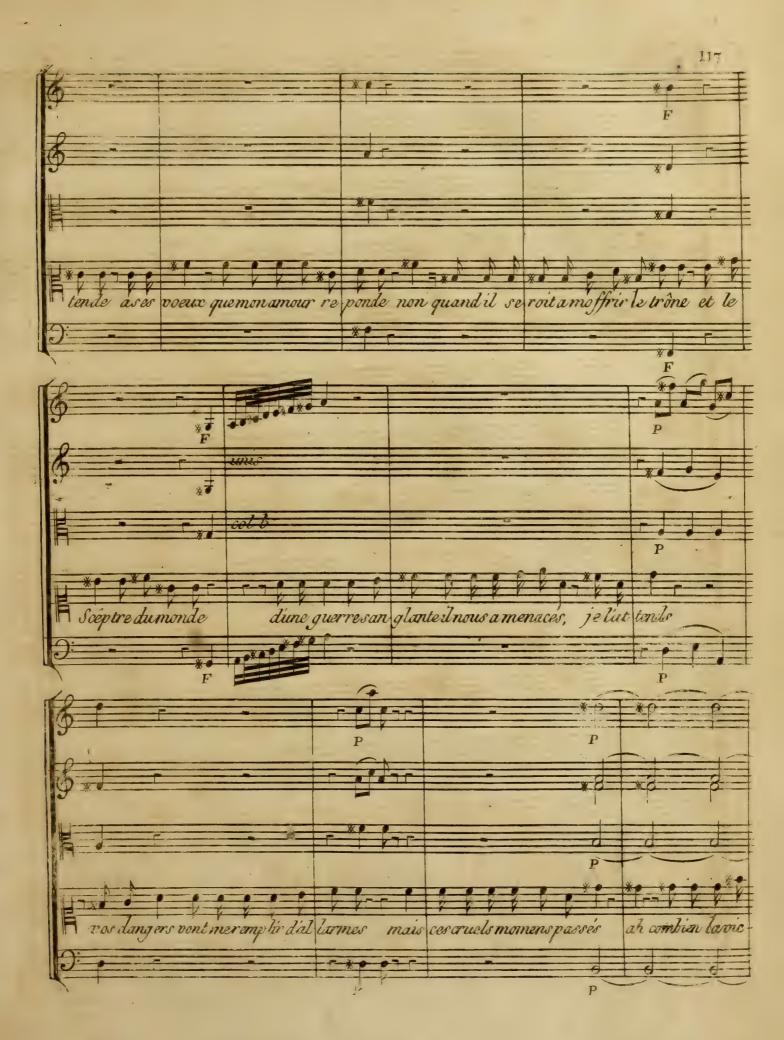


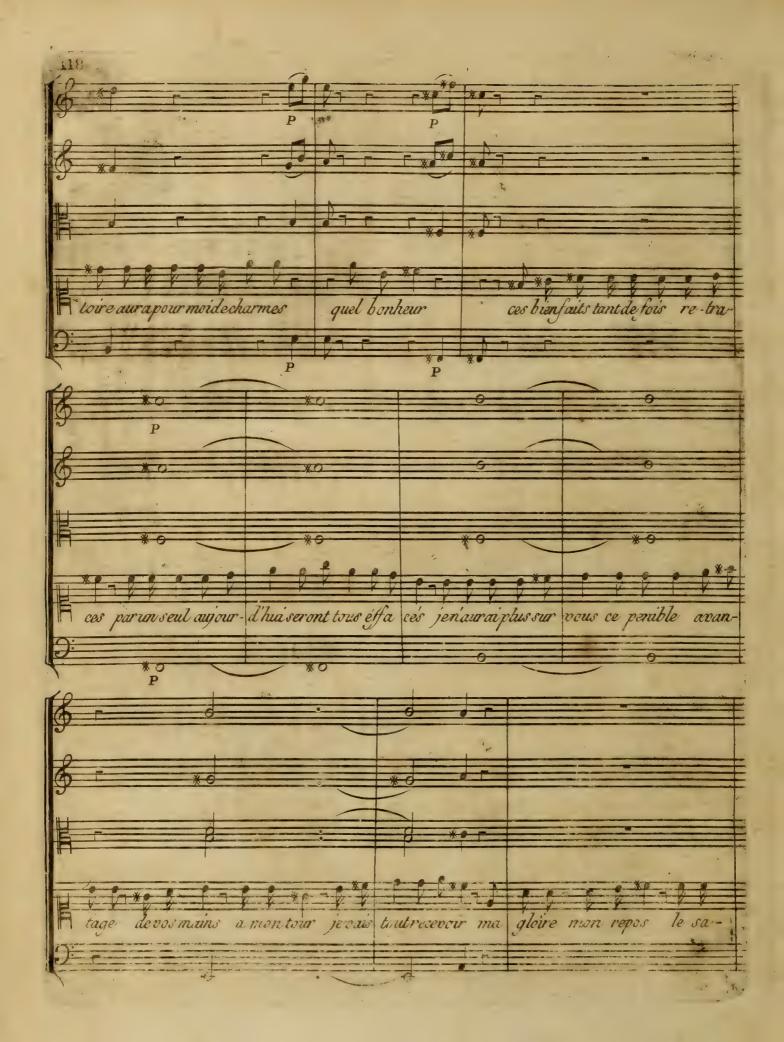


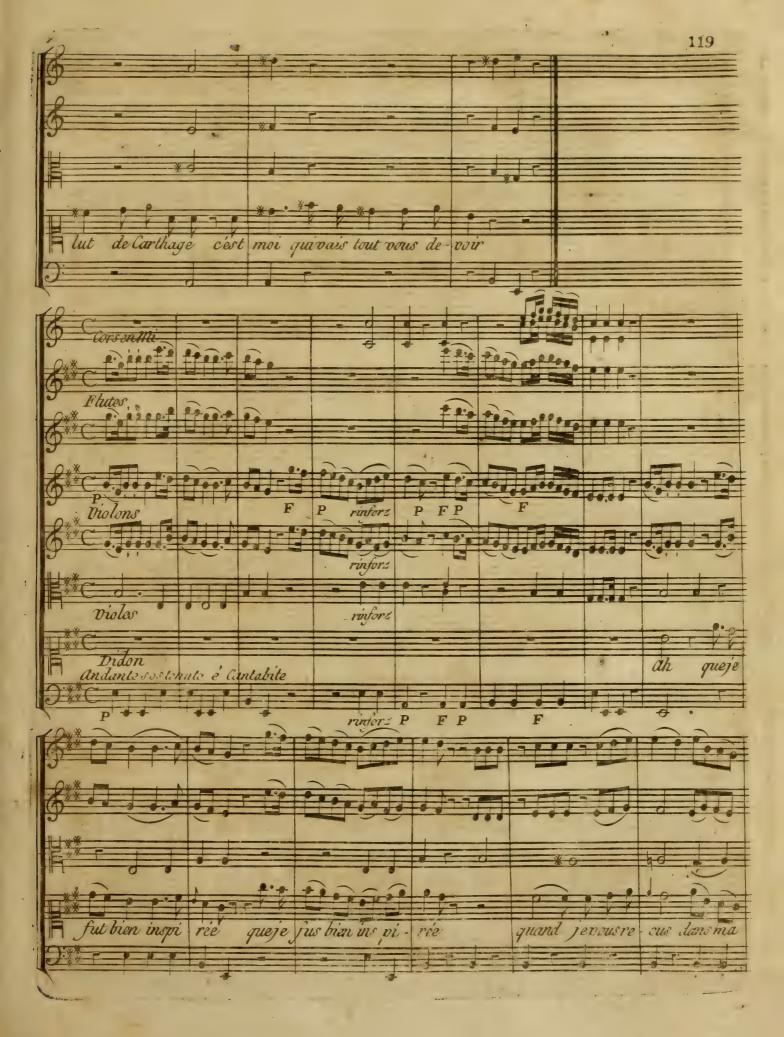


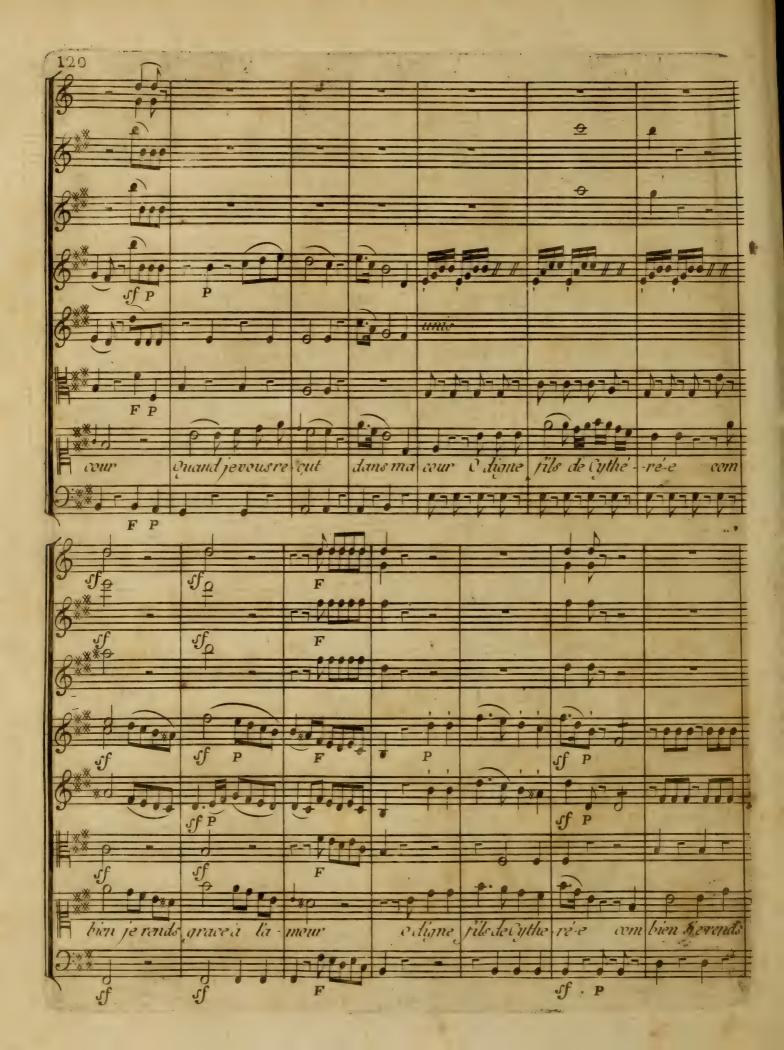


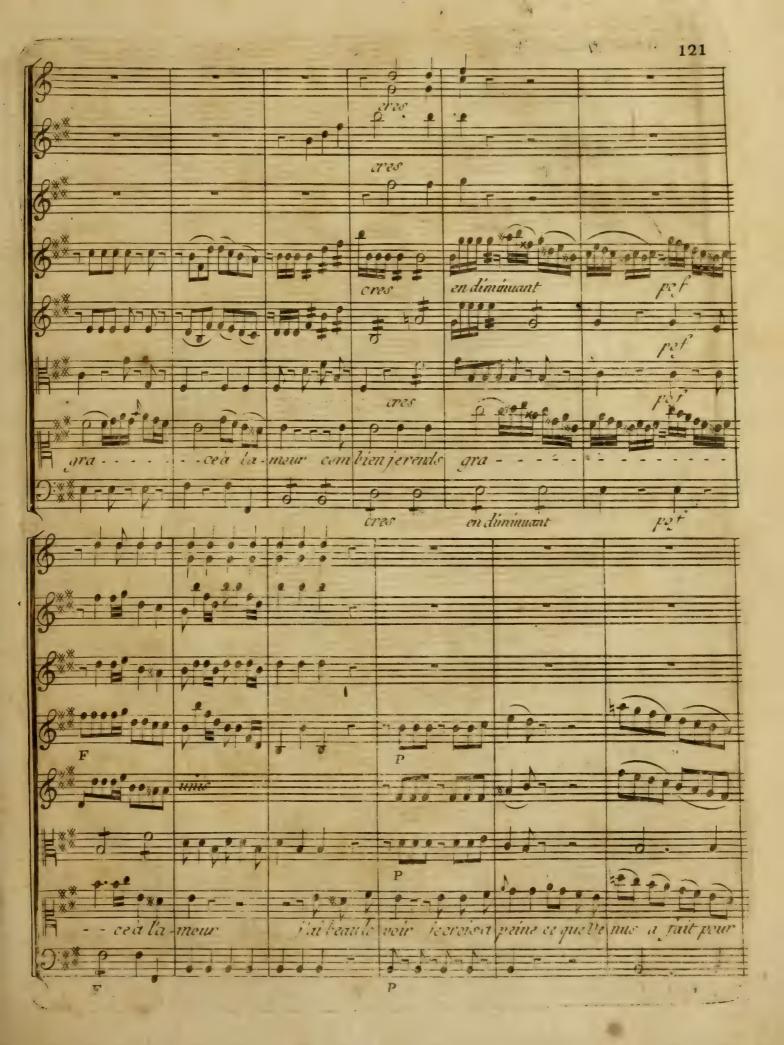


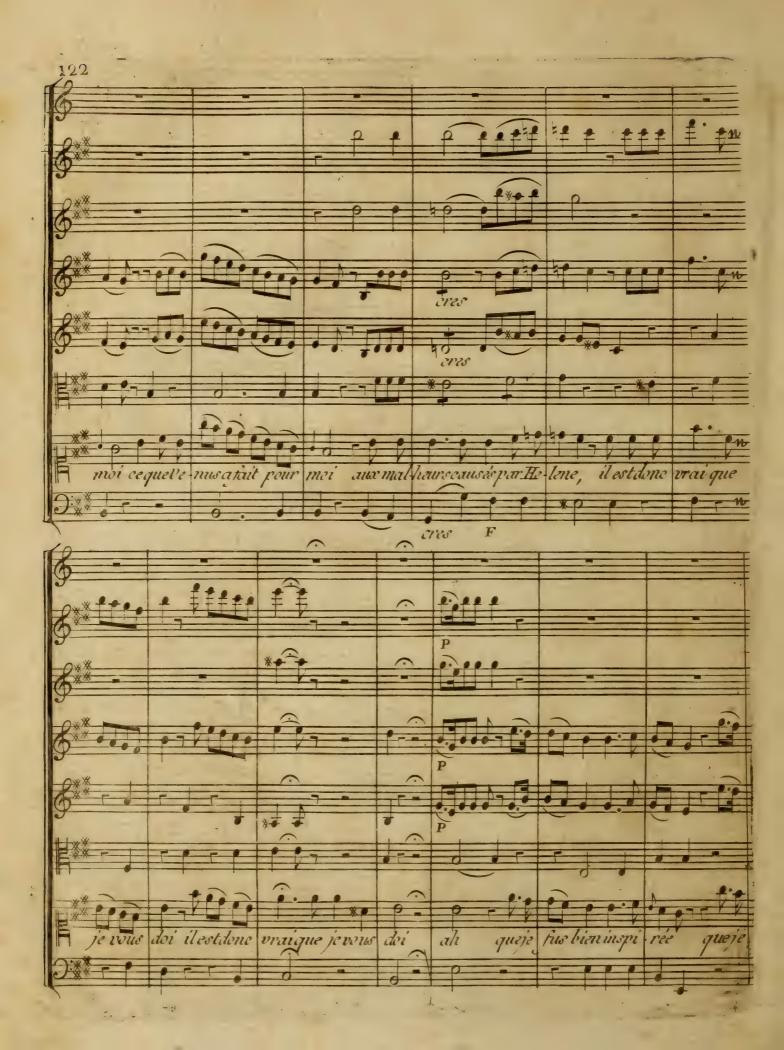


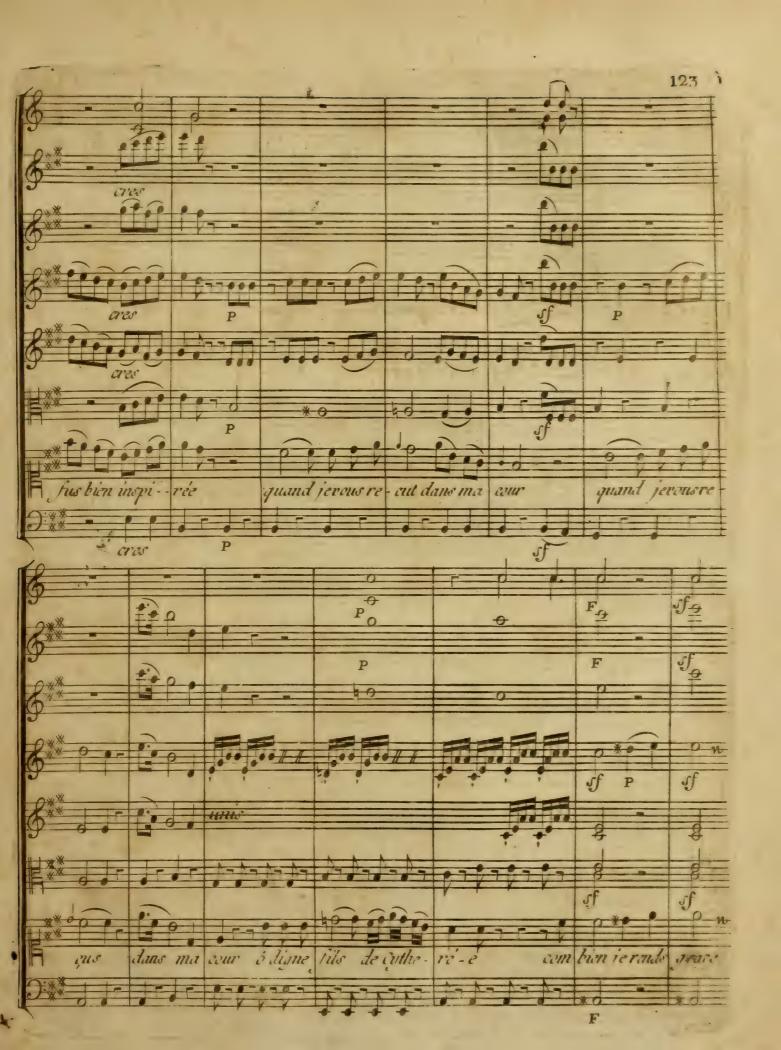


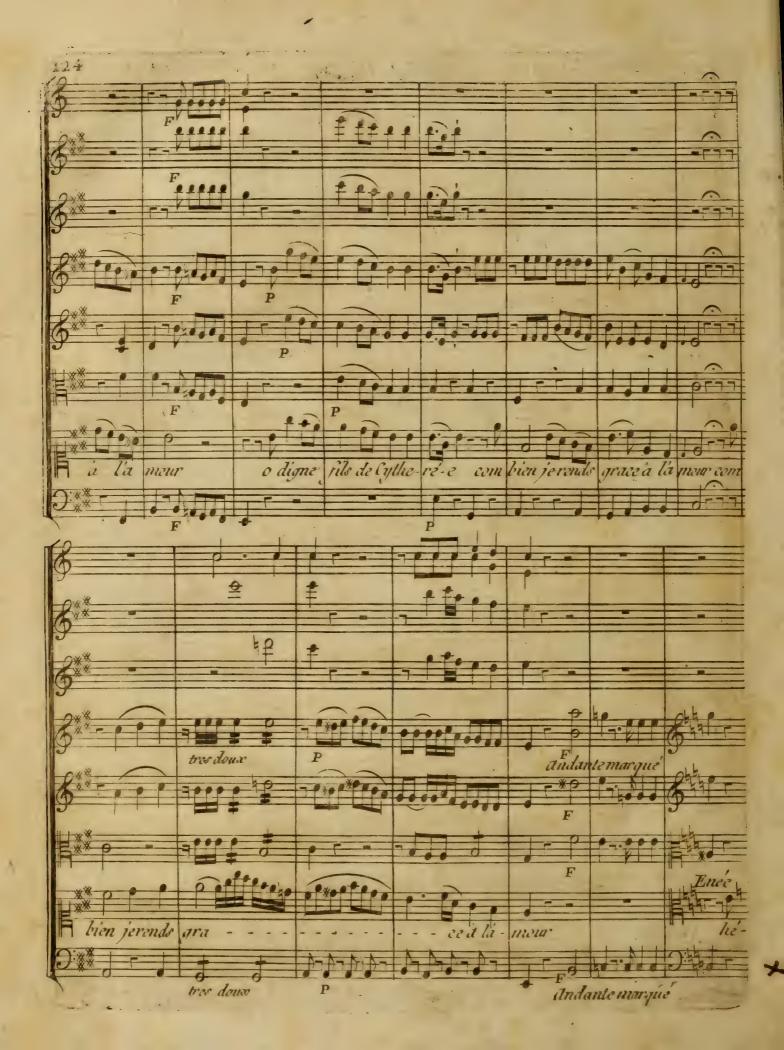


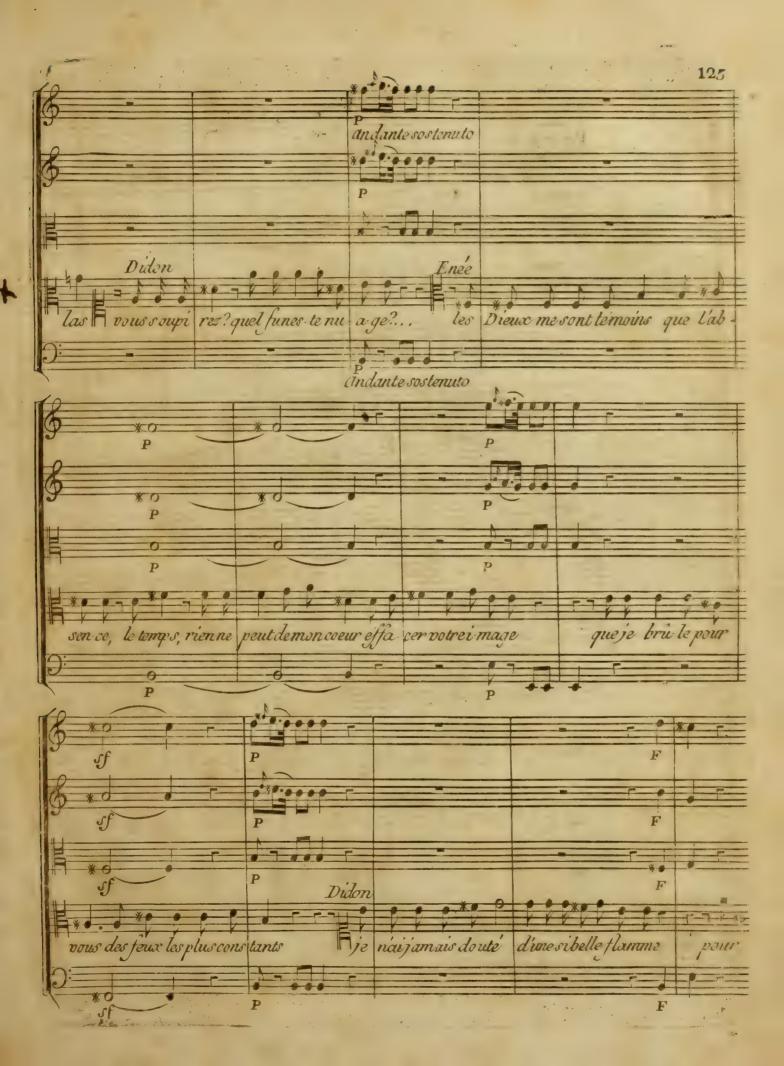


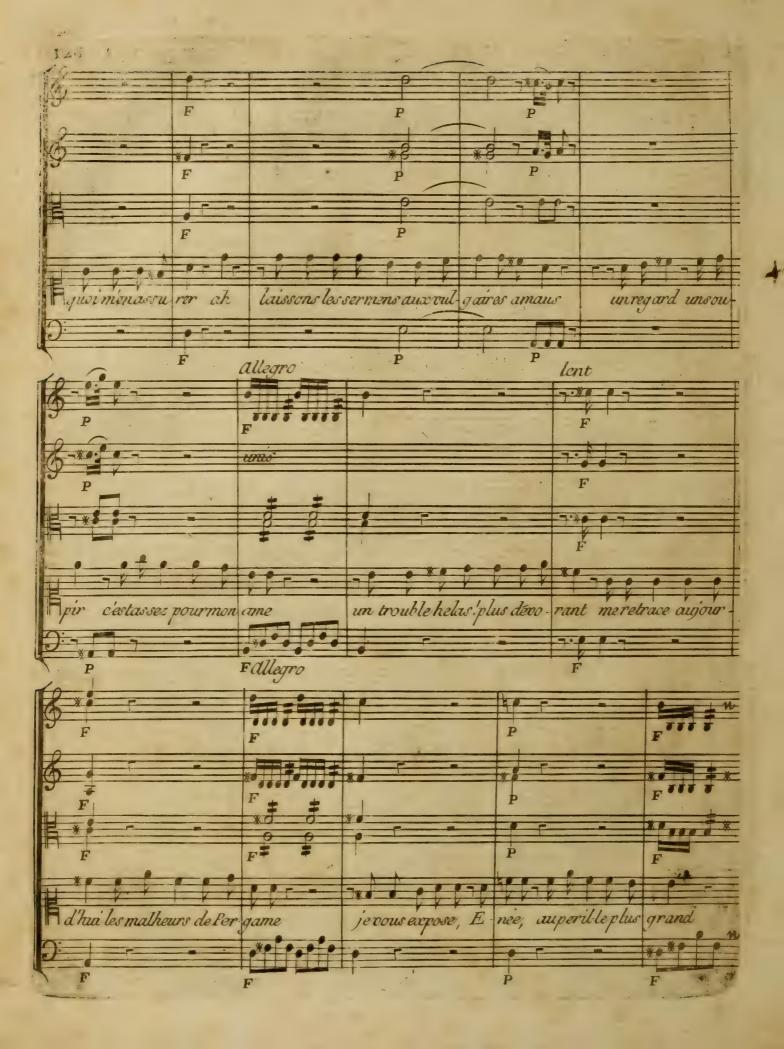


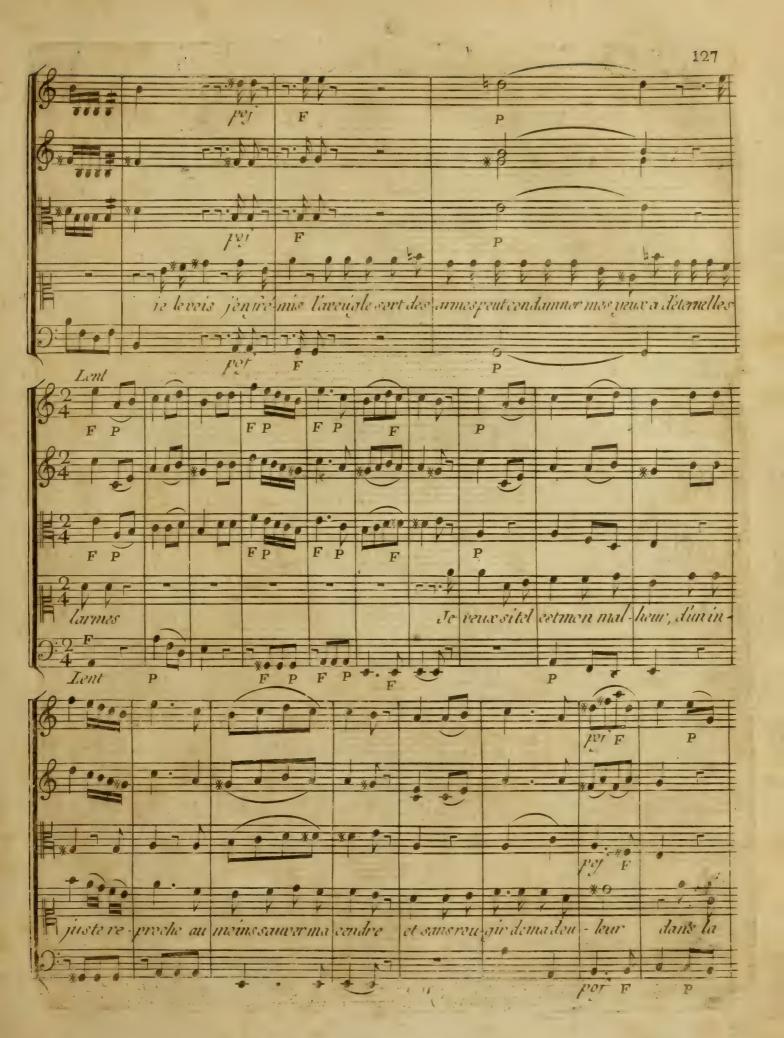


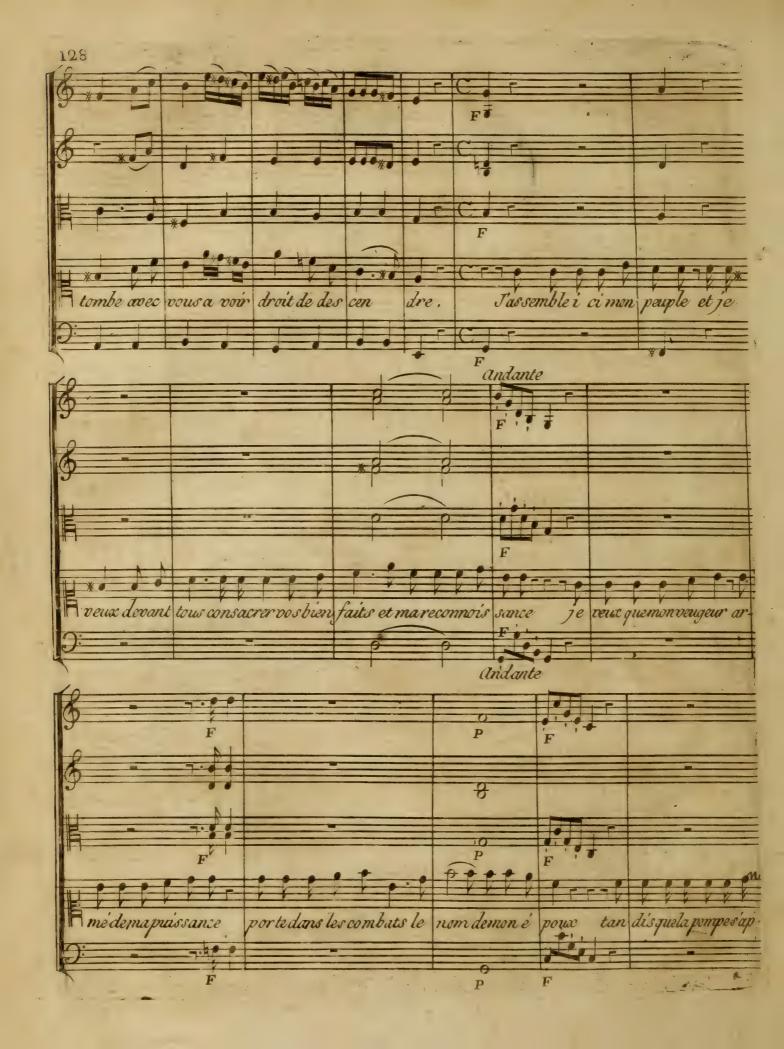


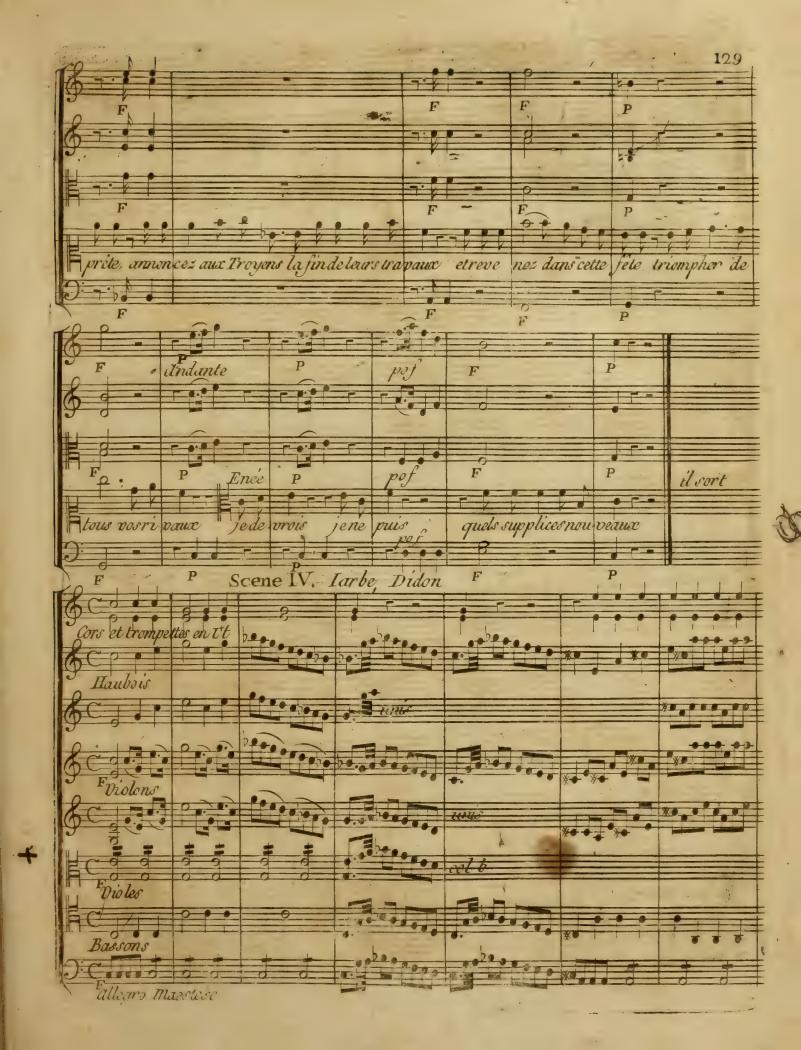


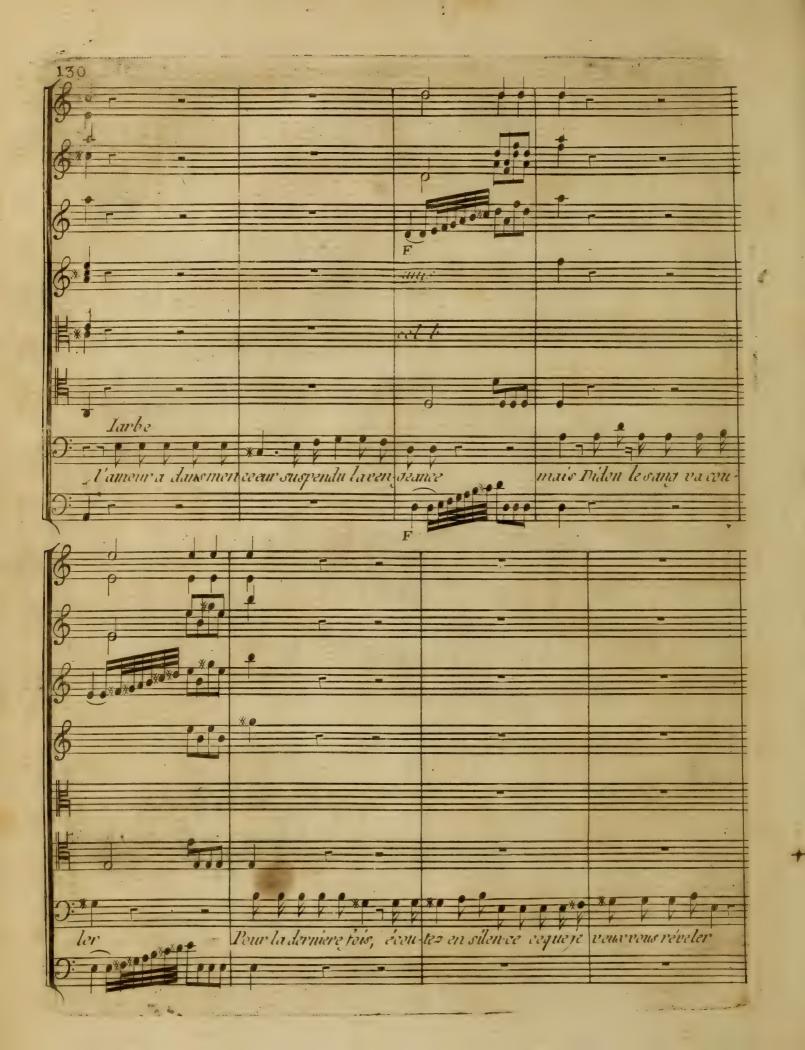


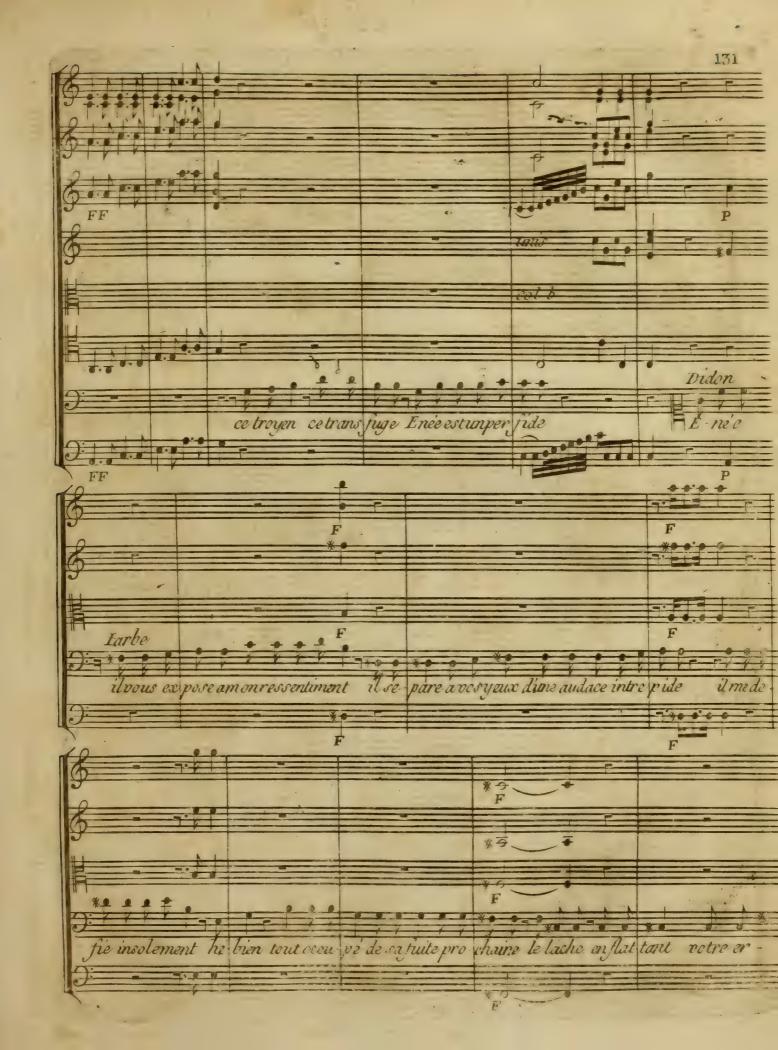


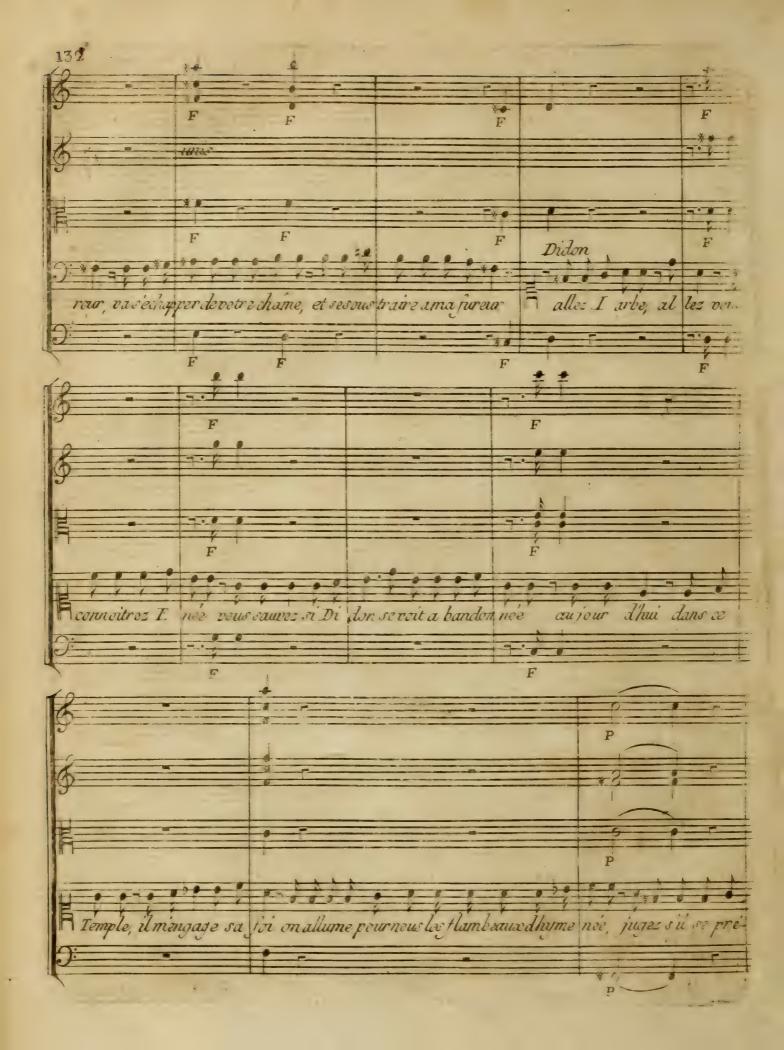


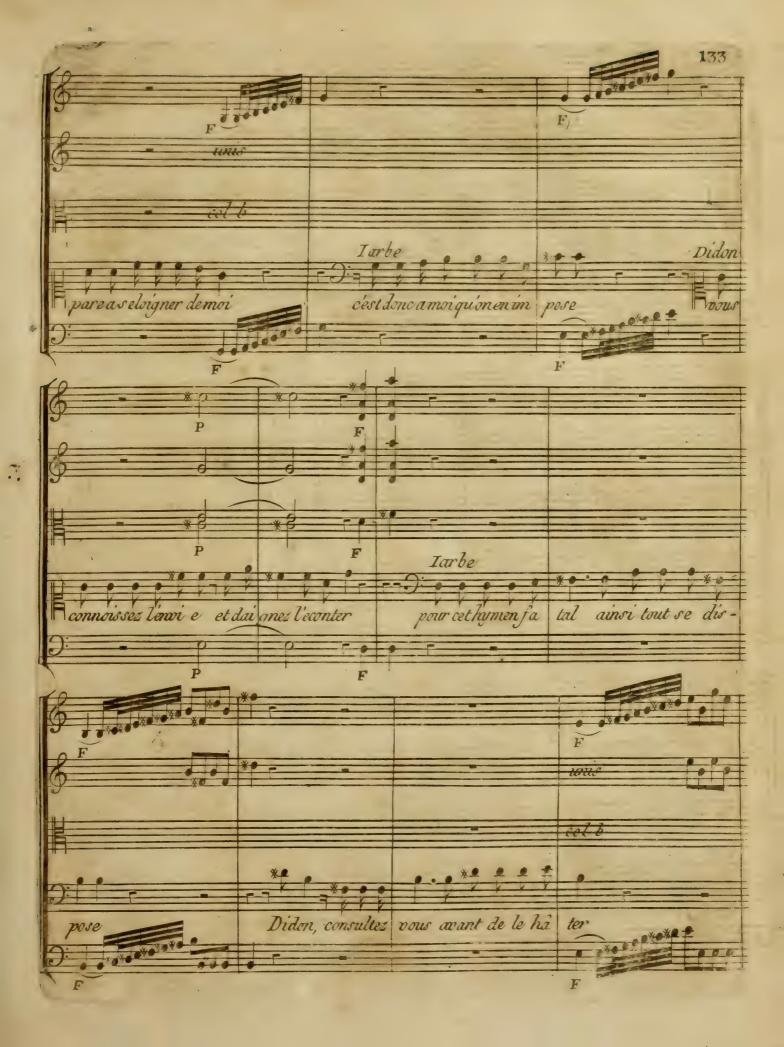


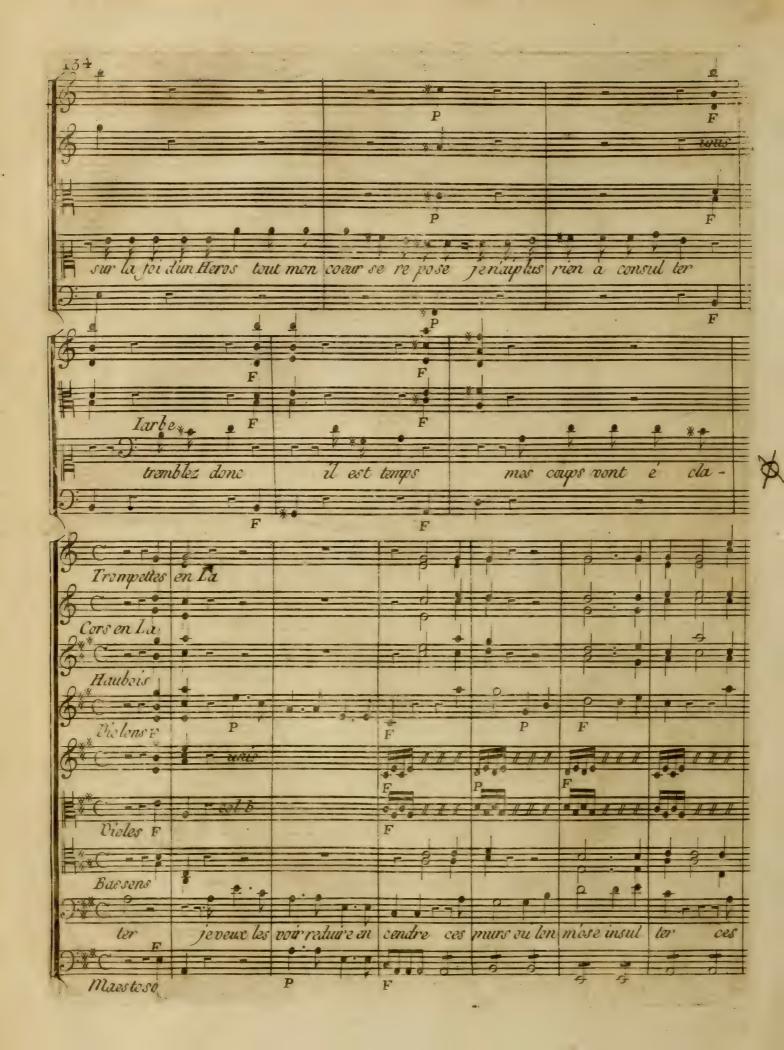


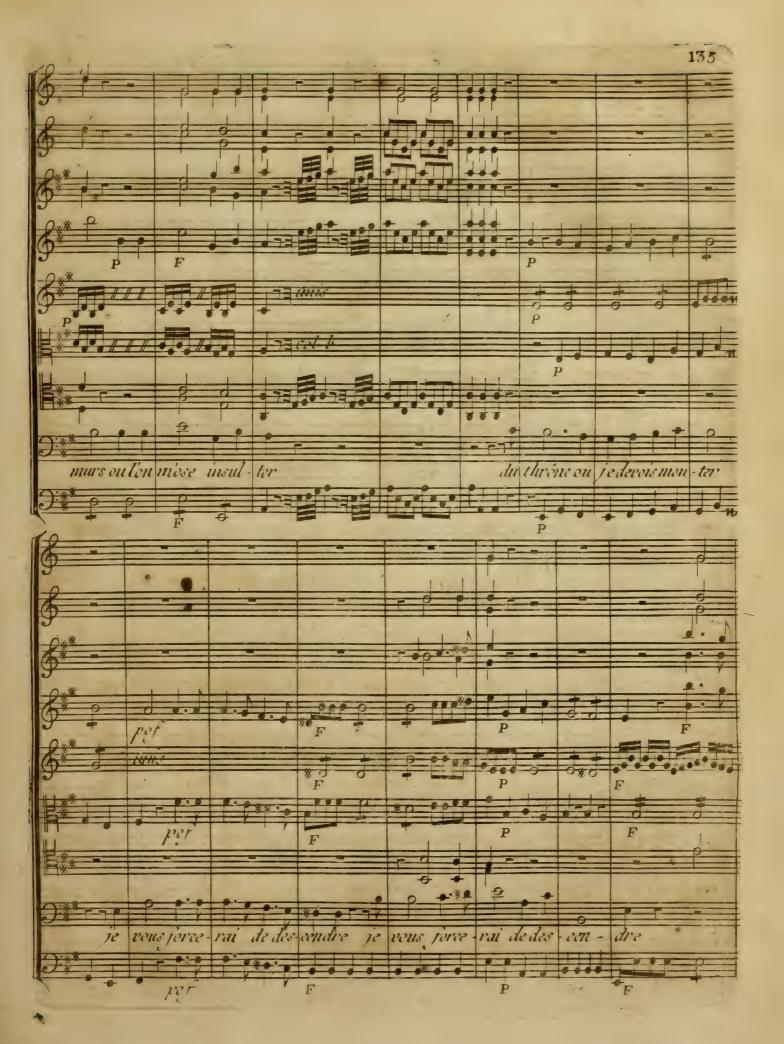


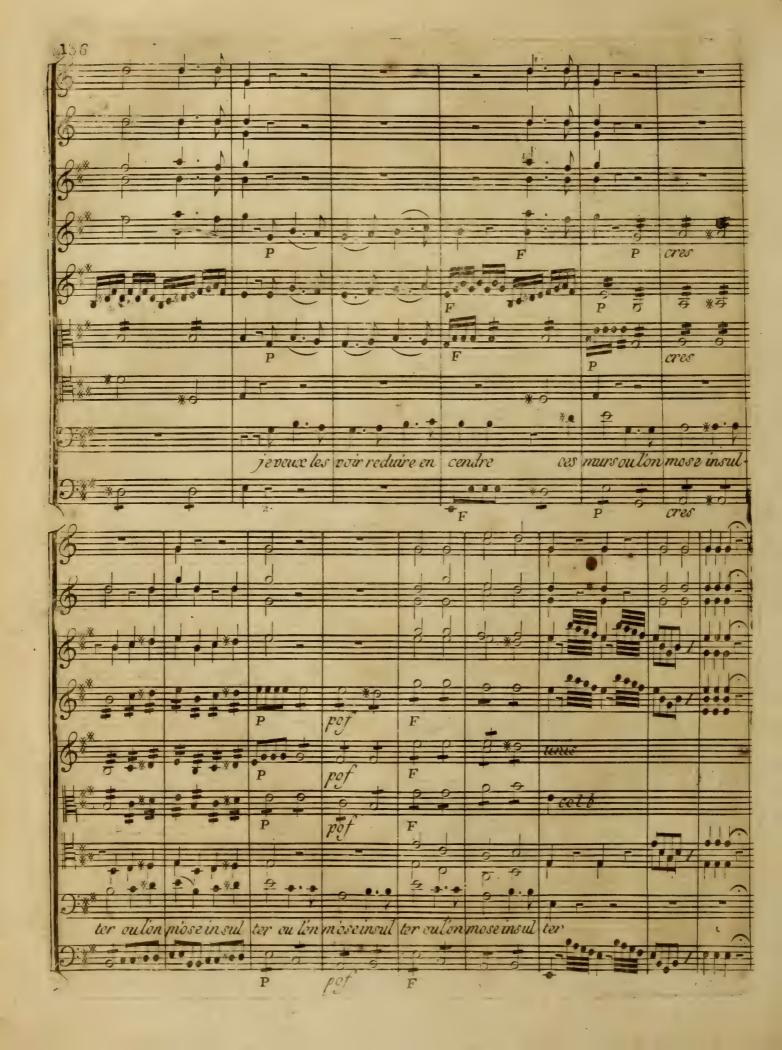


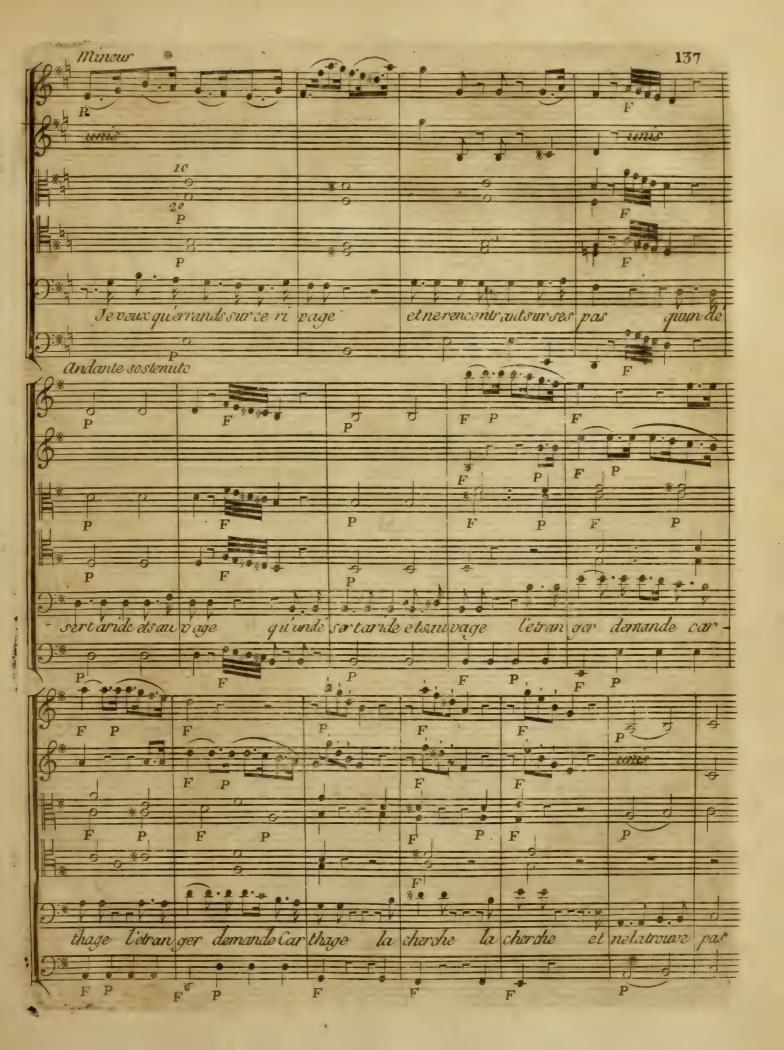


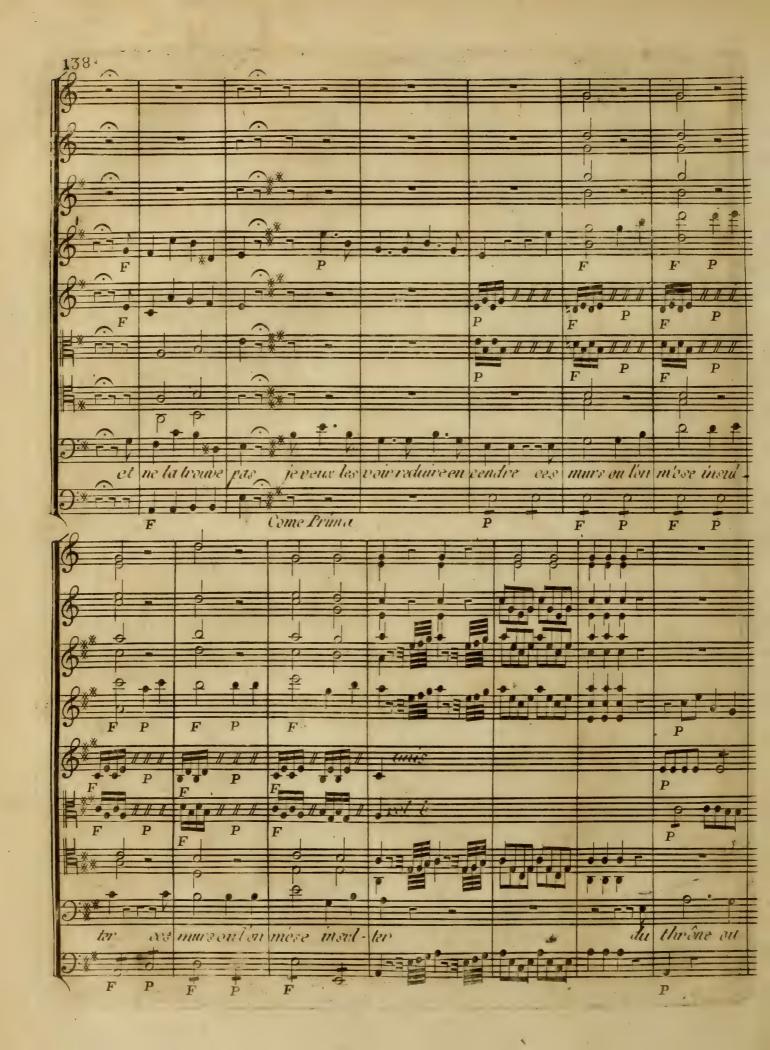


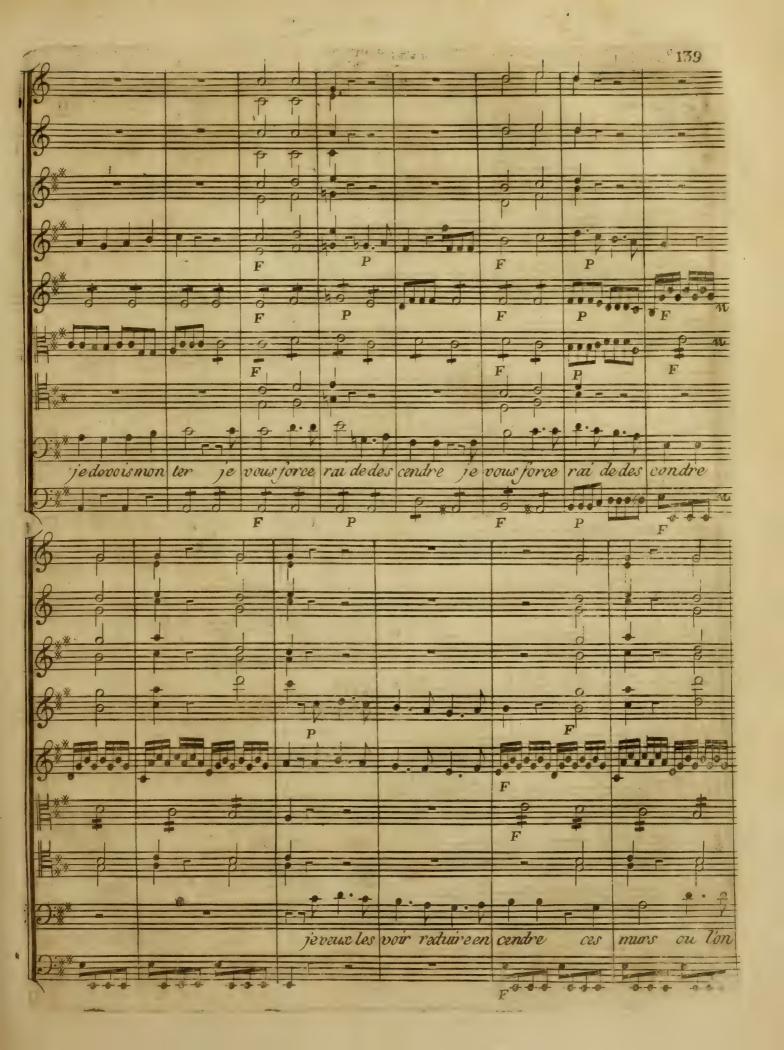


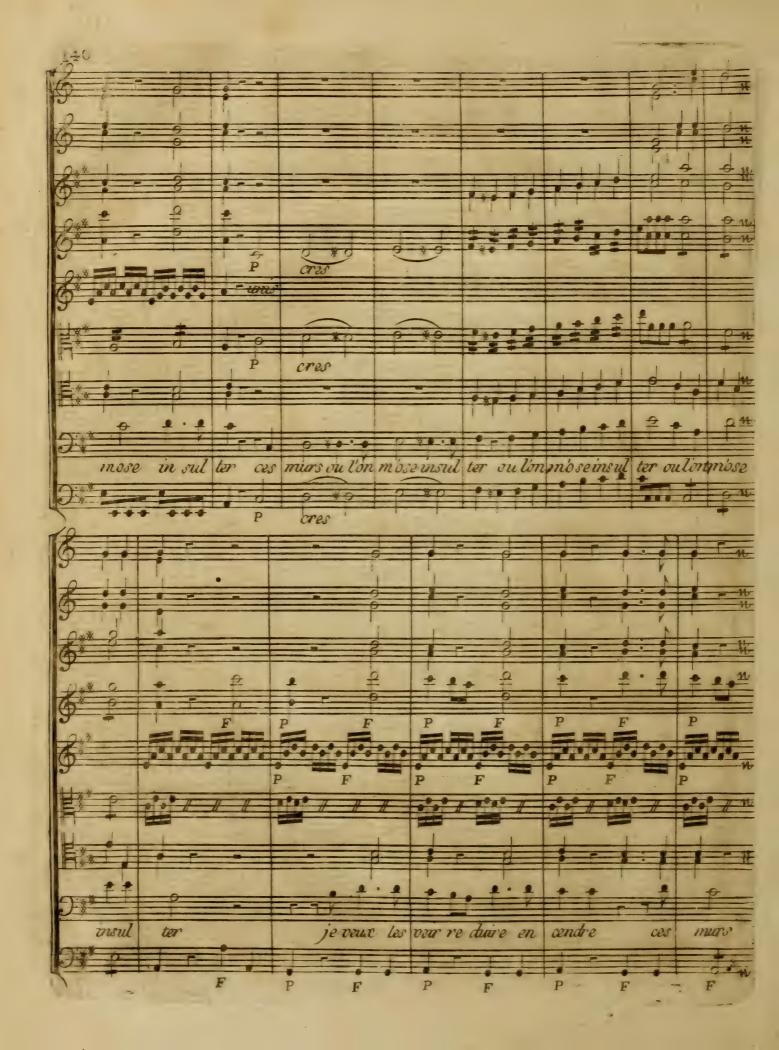


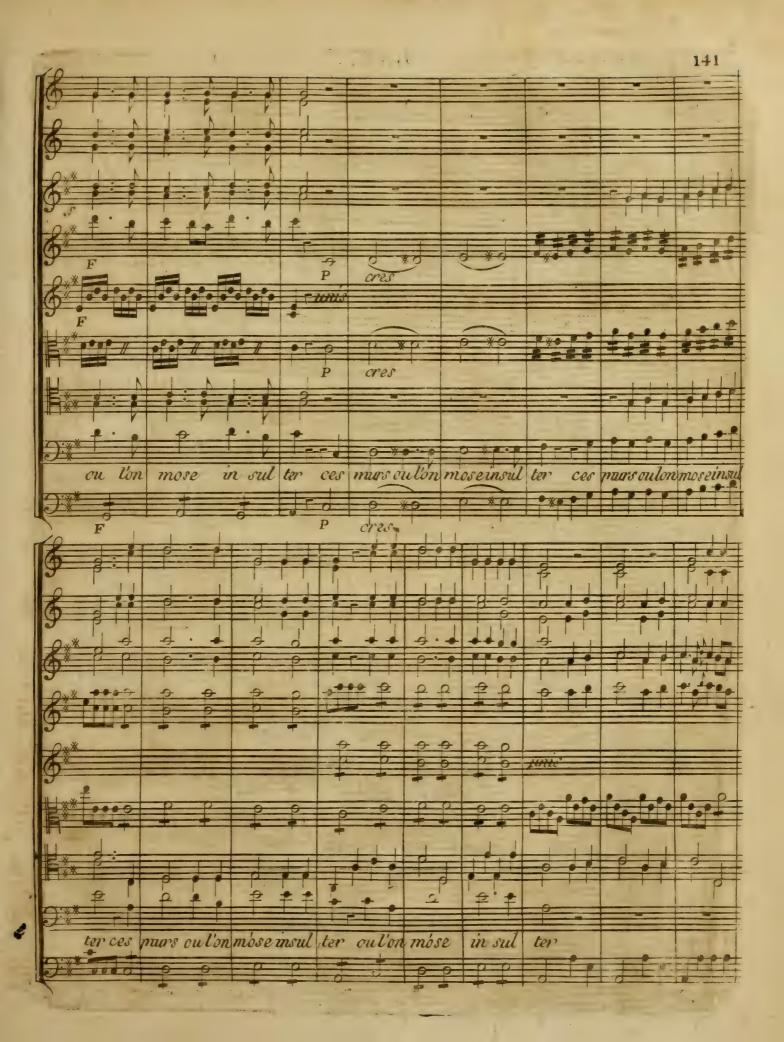


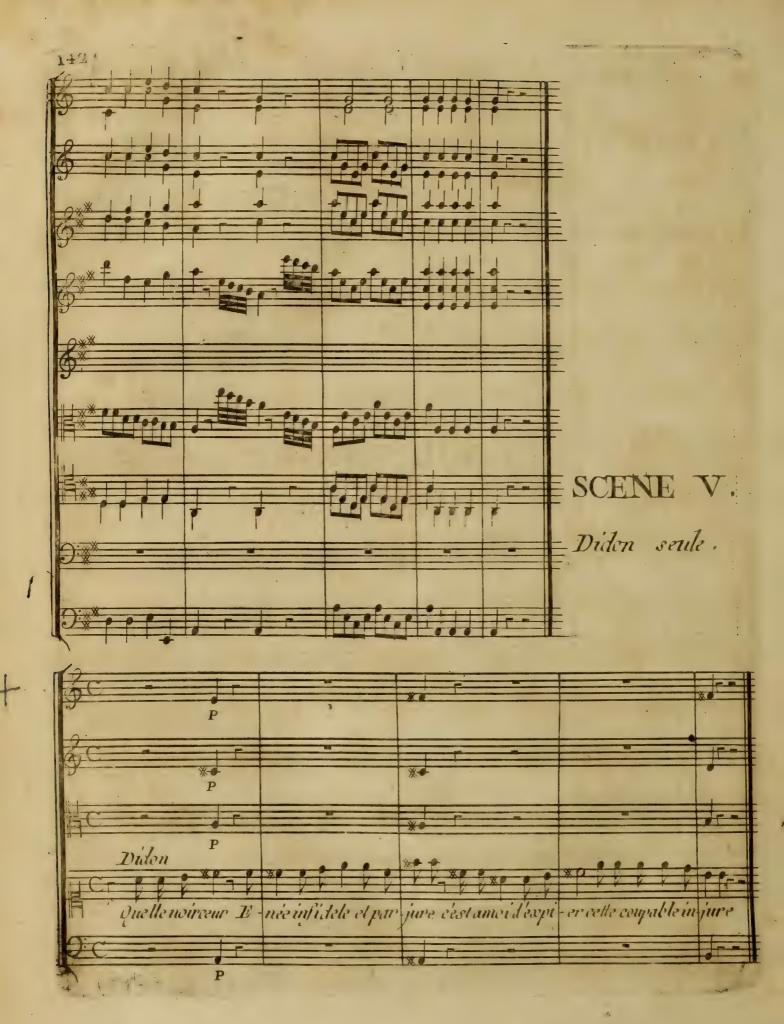




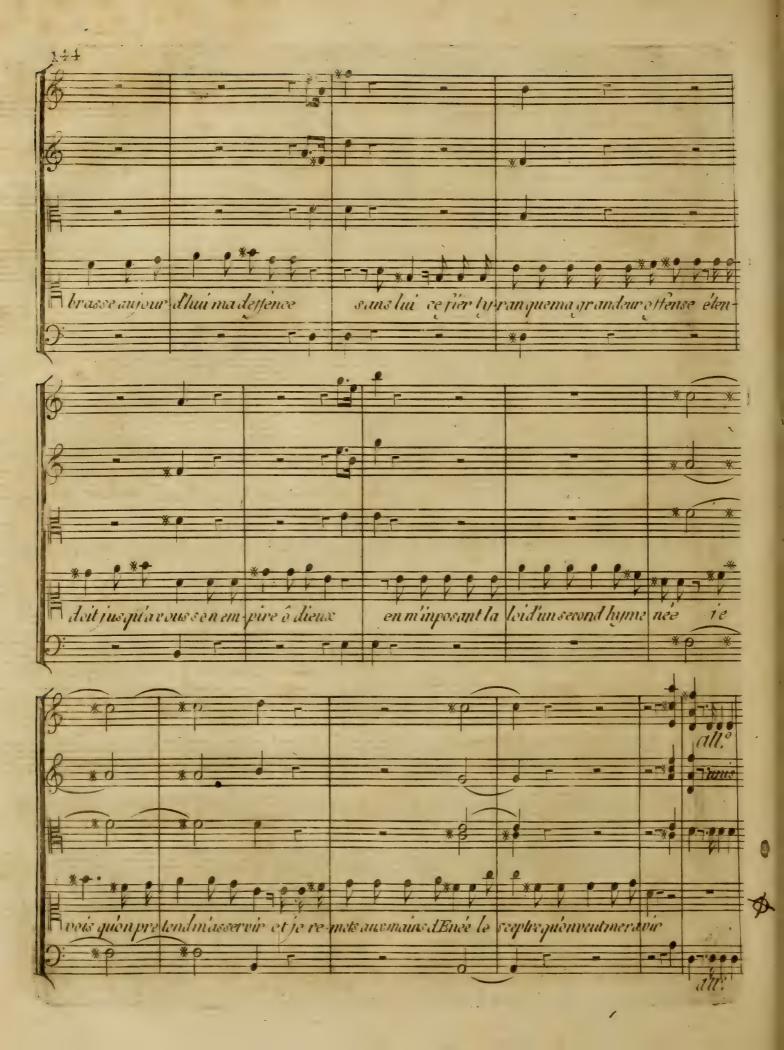




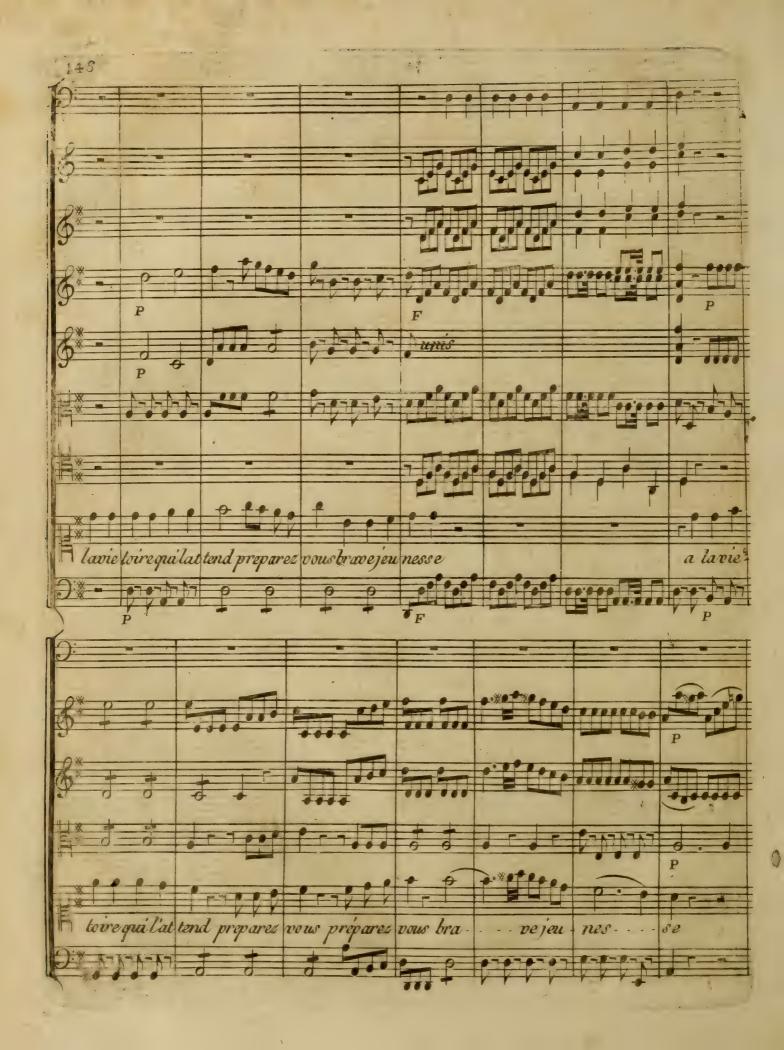






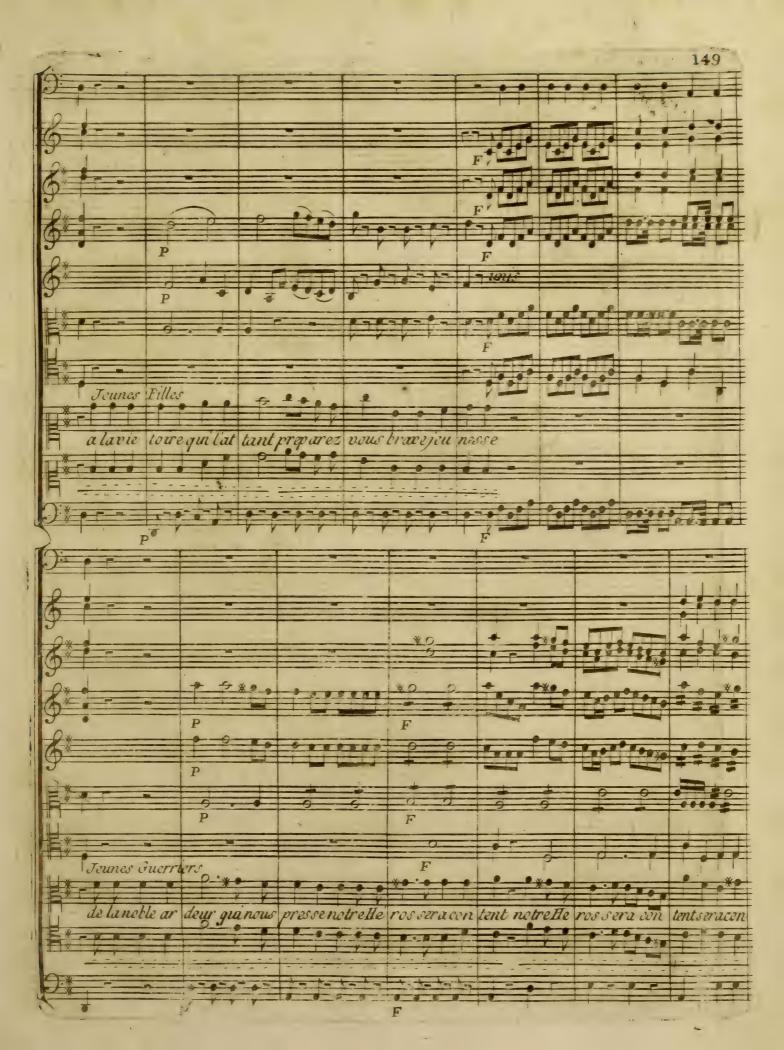


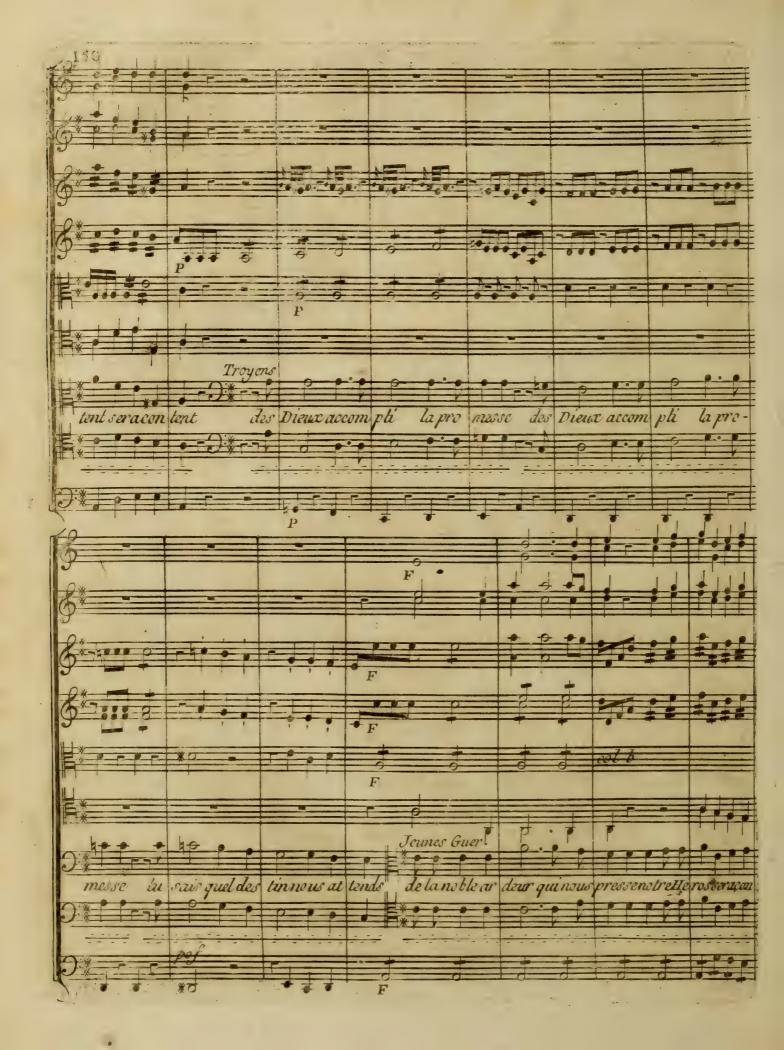


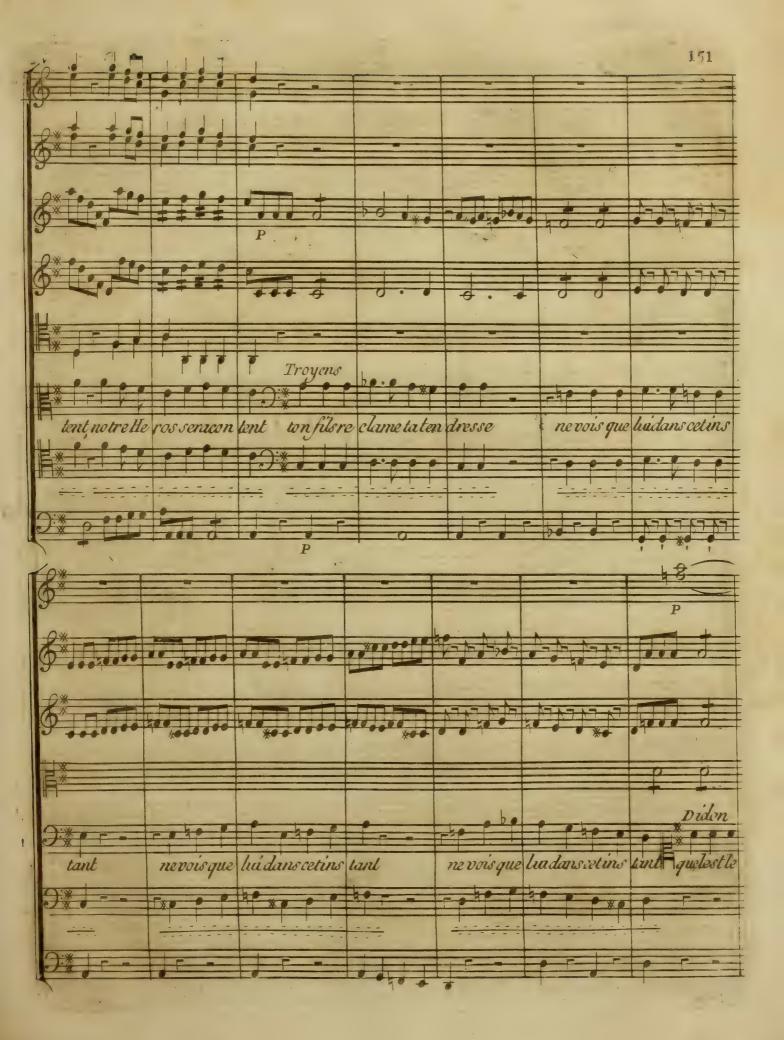


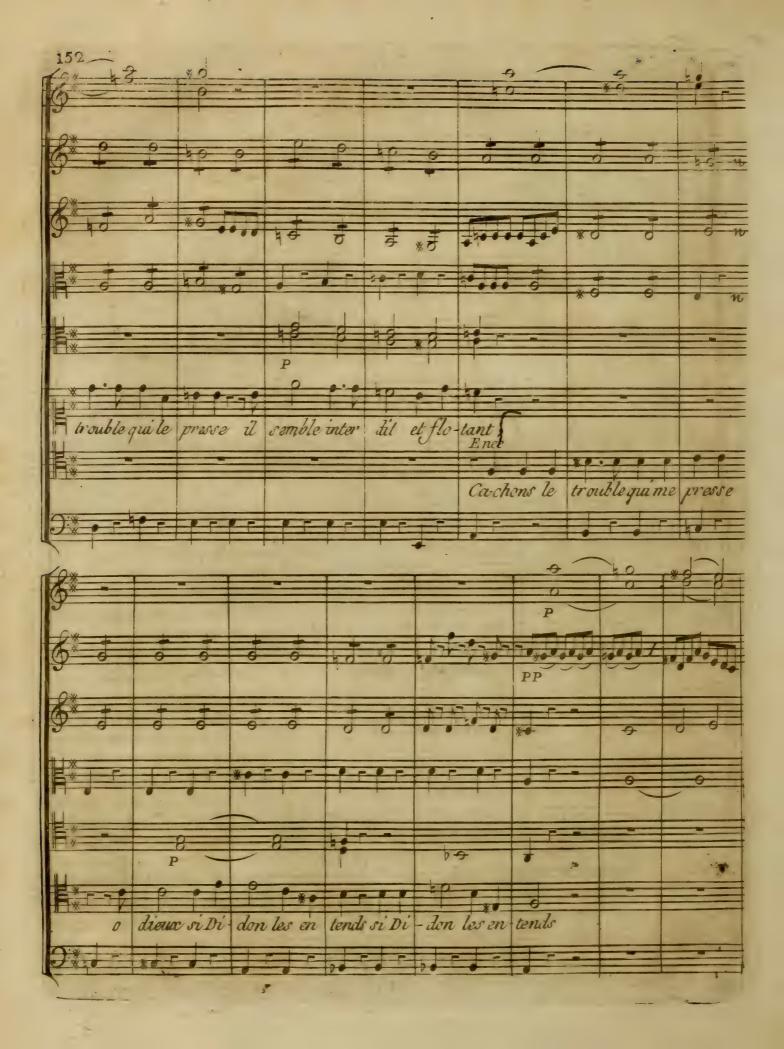


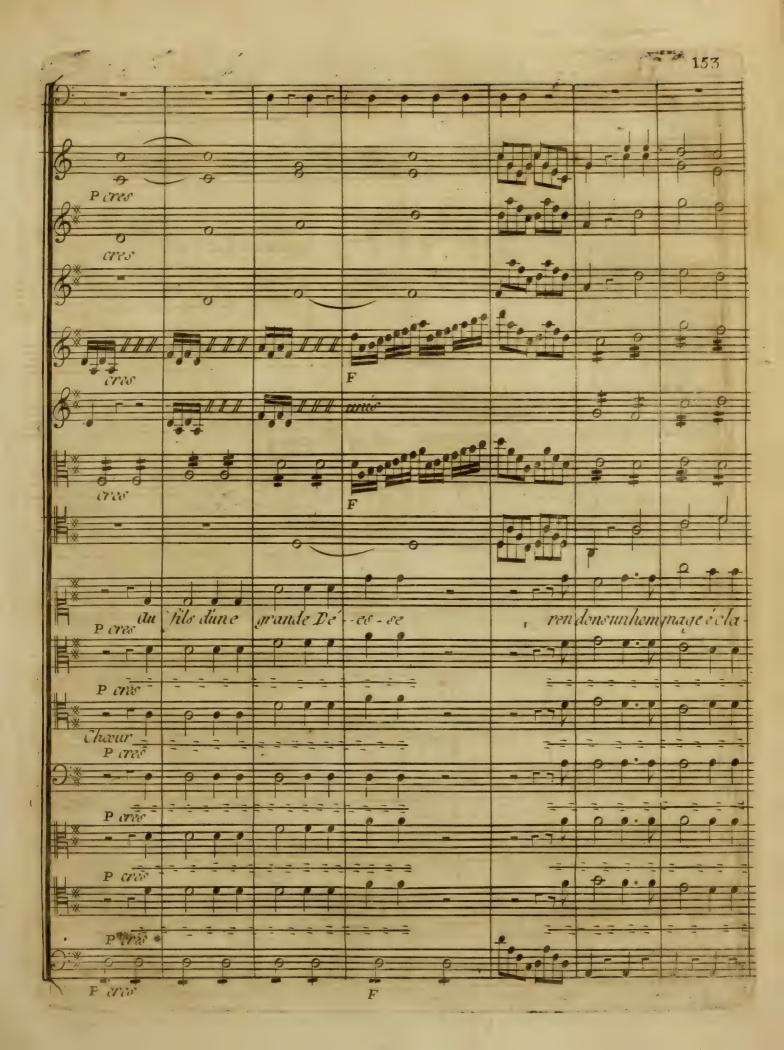
148. cors et Trompettes mage écla-tant mage écla tant

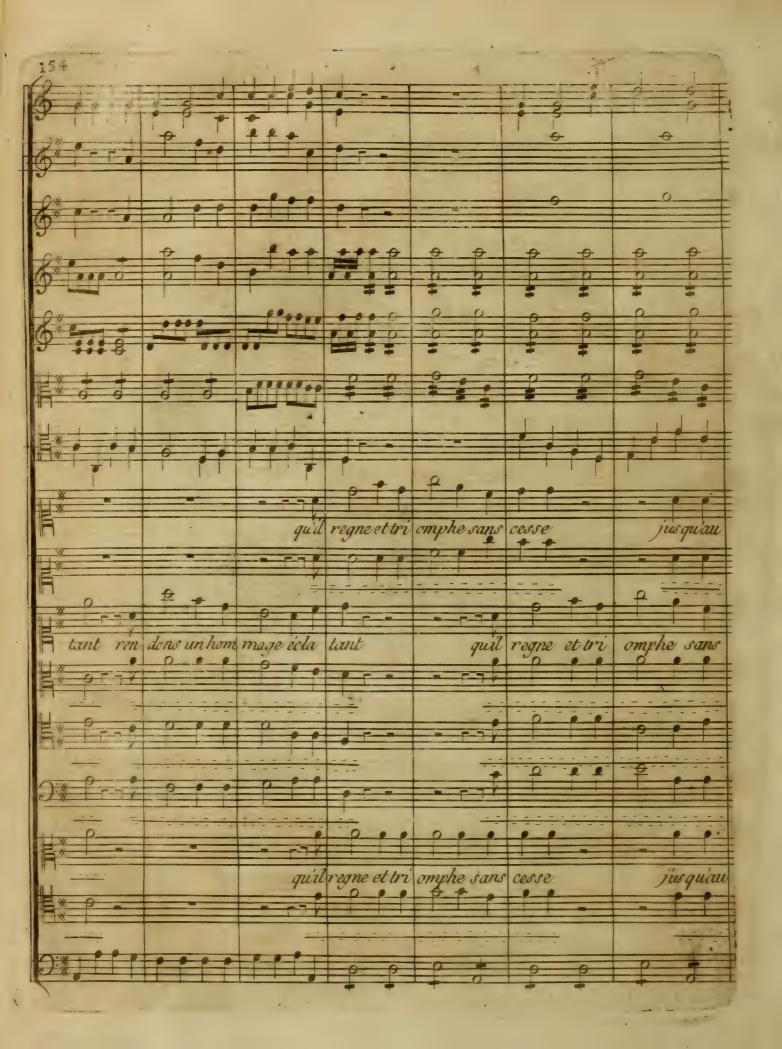




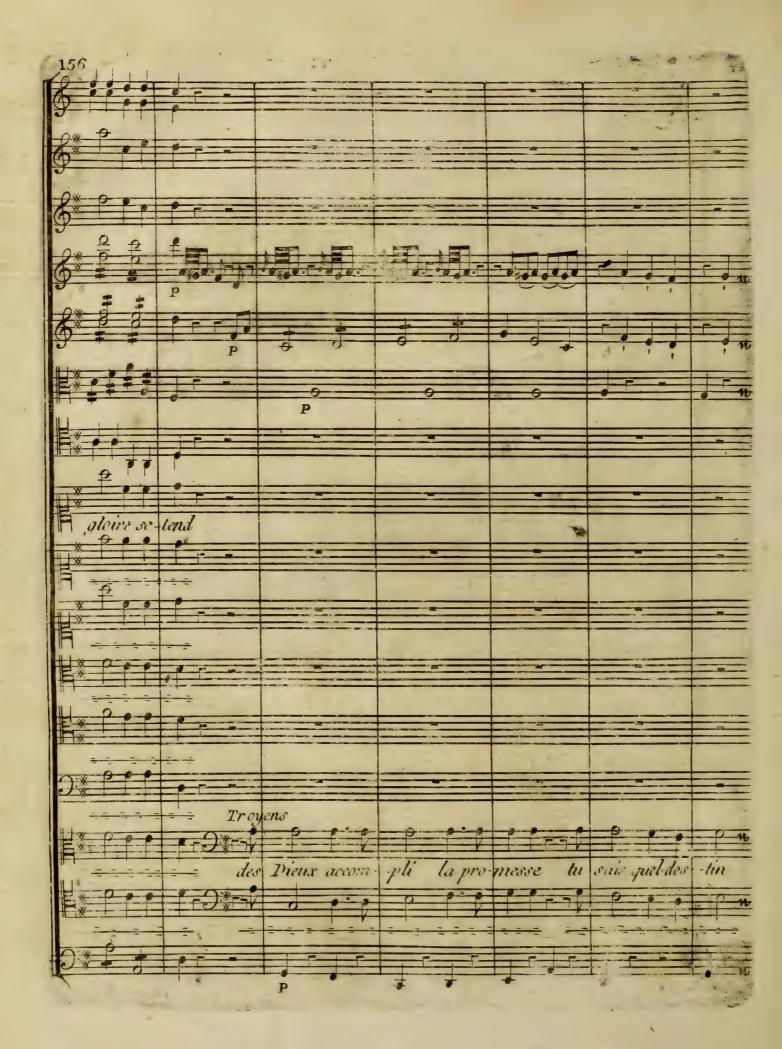


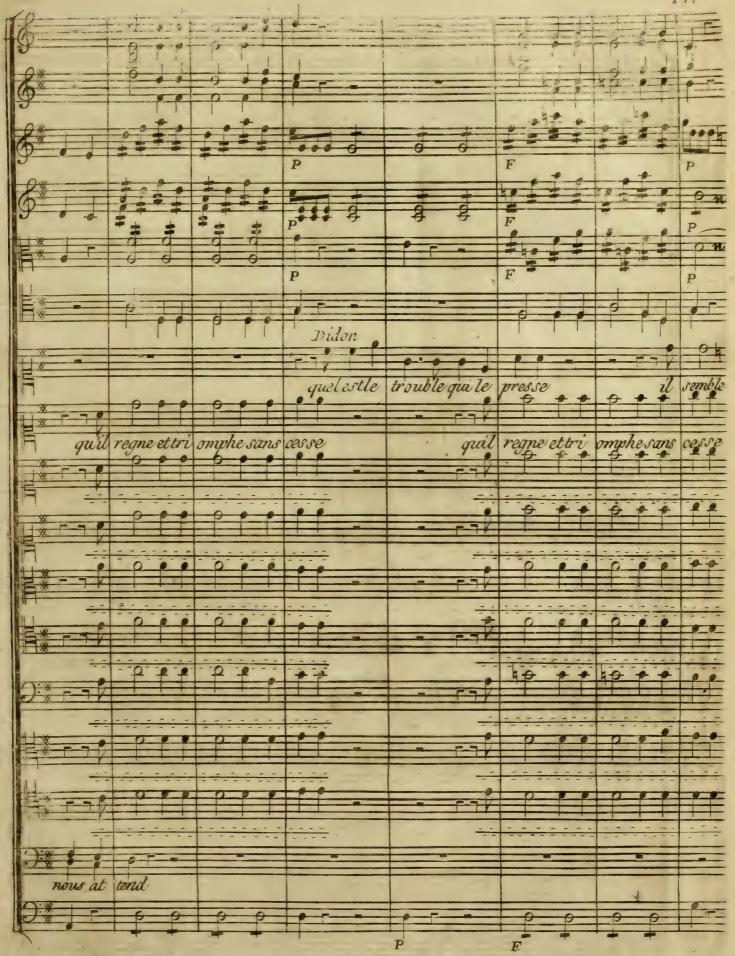




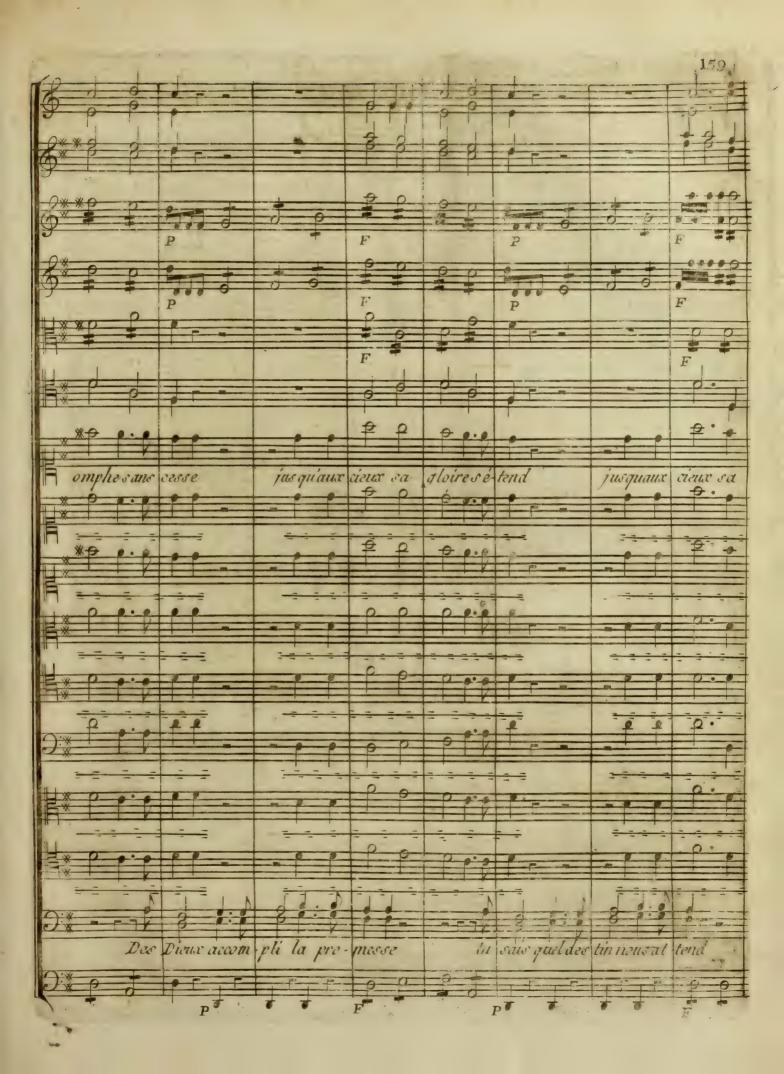


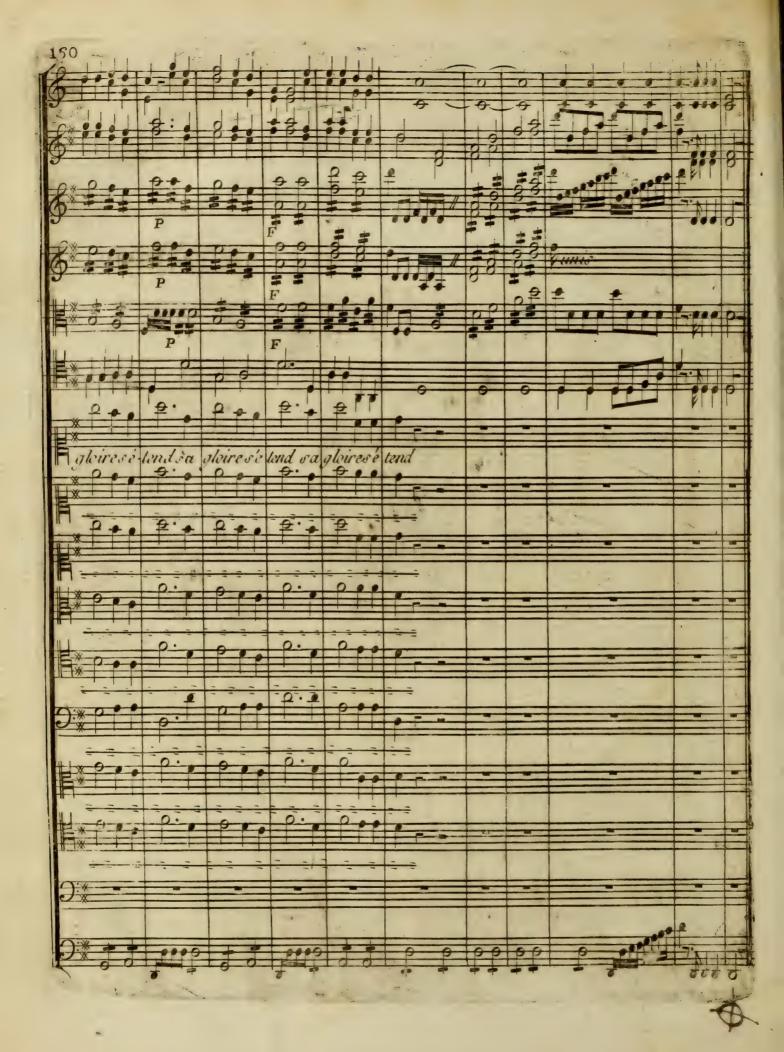




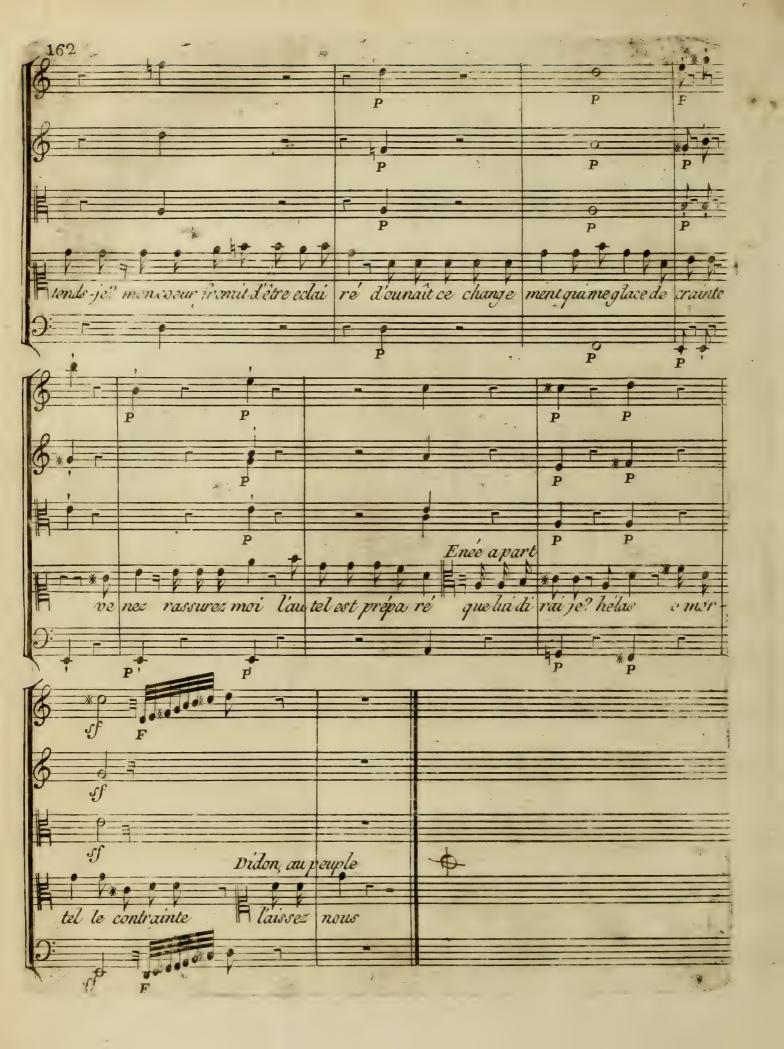




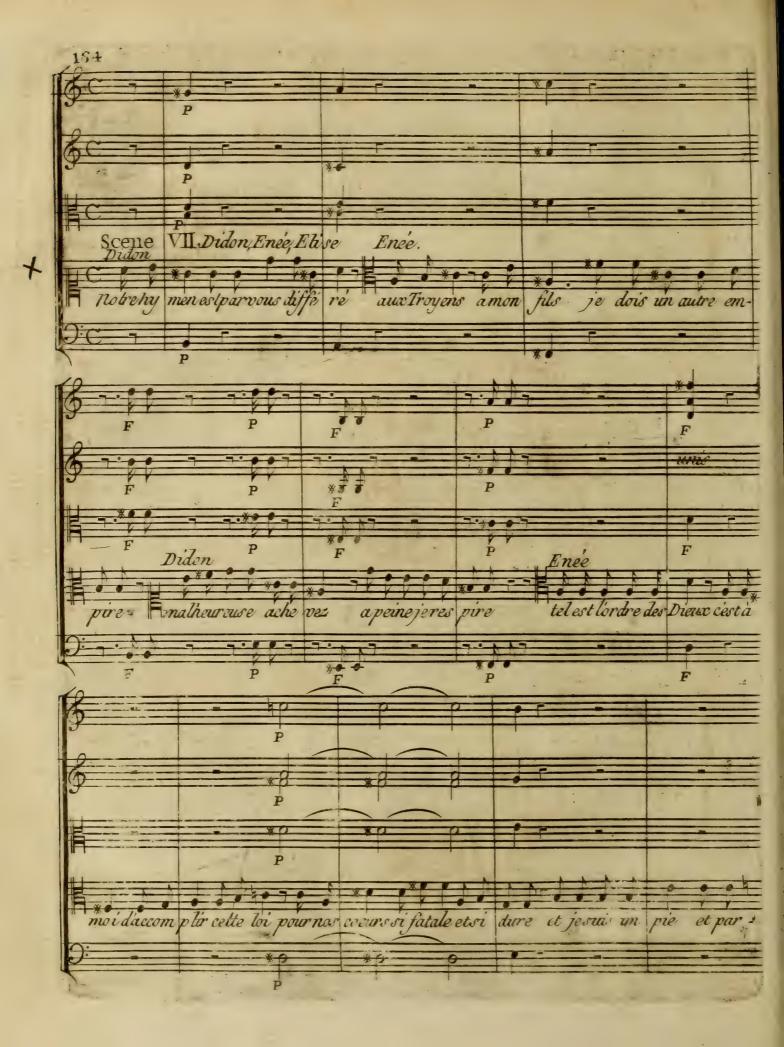


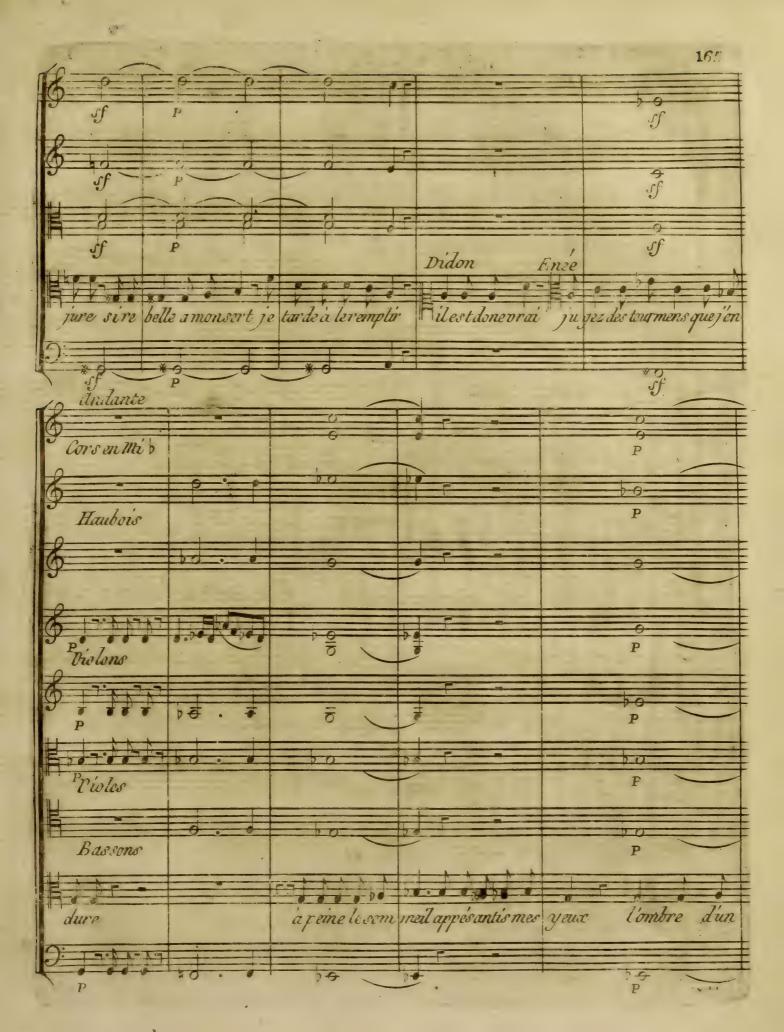


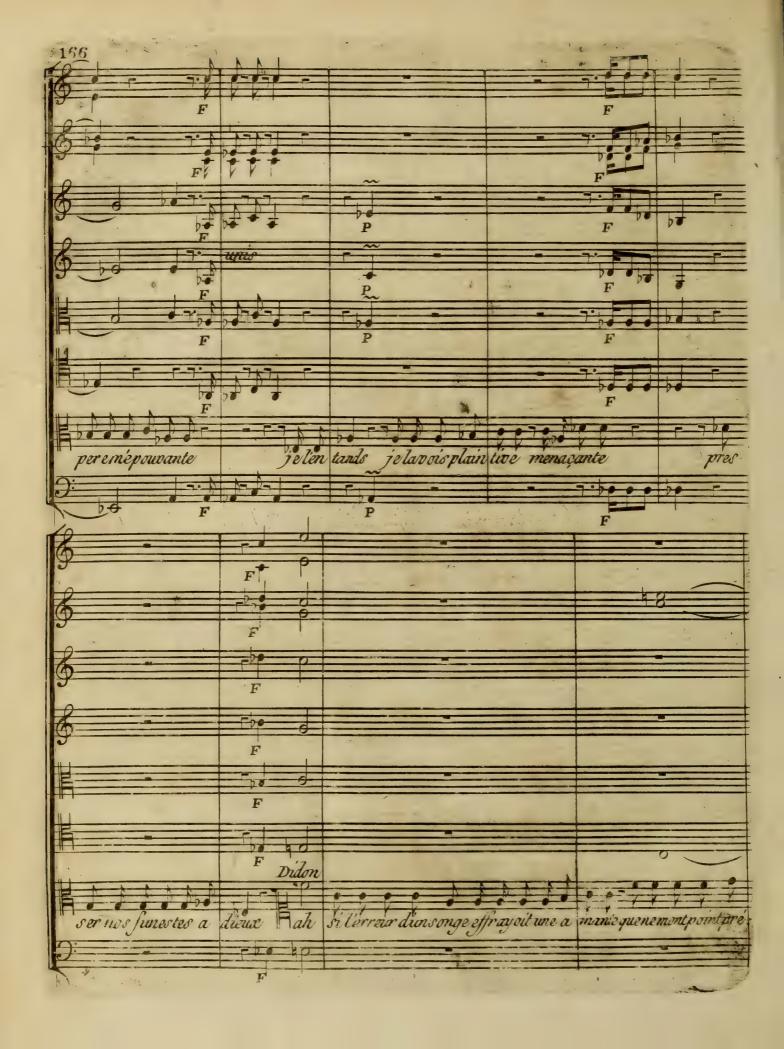


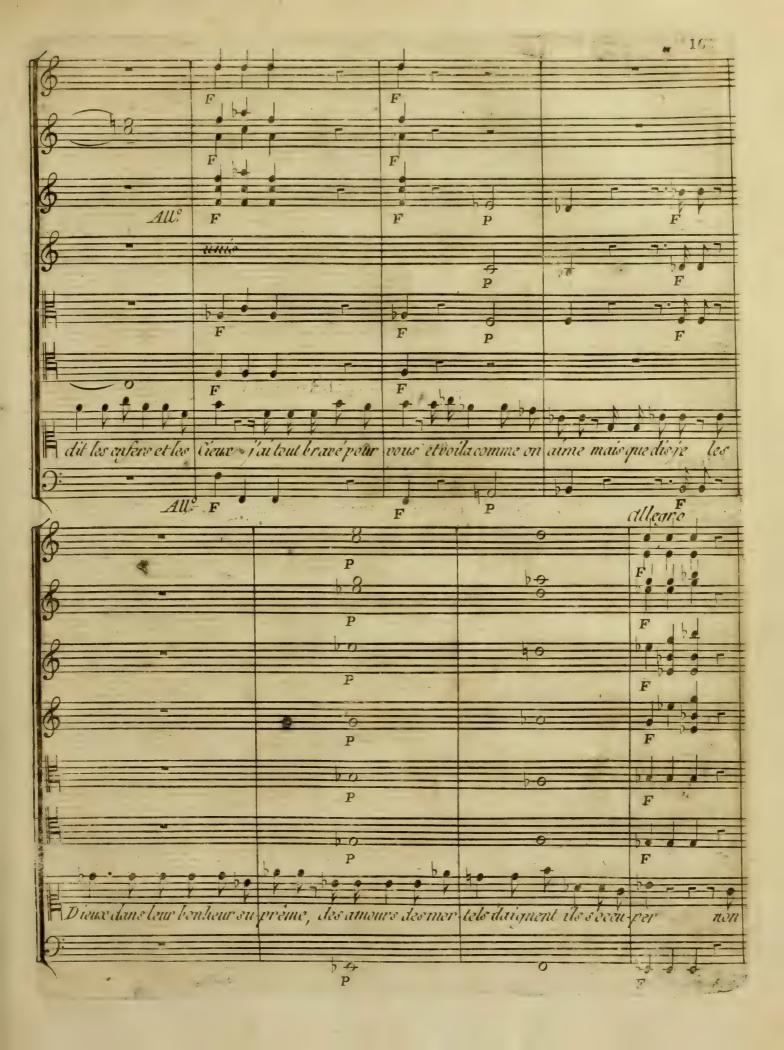


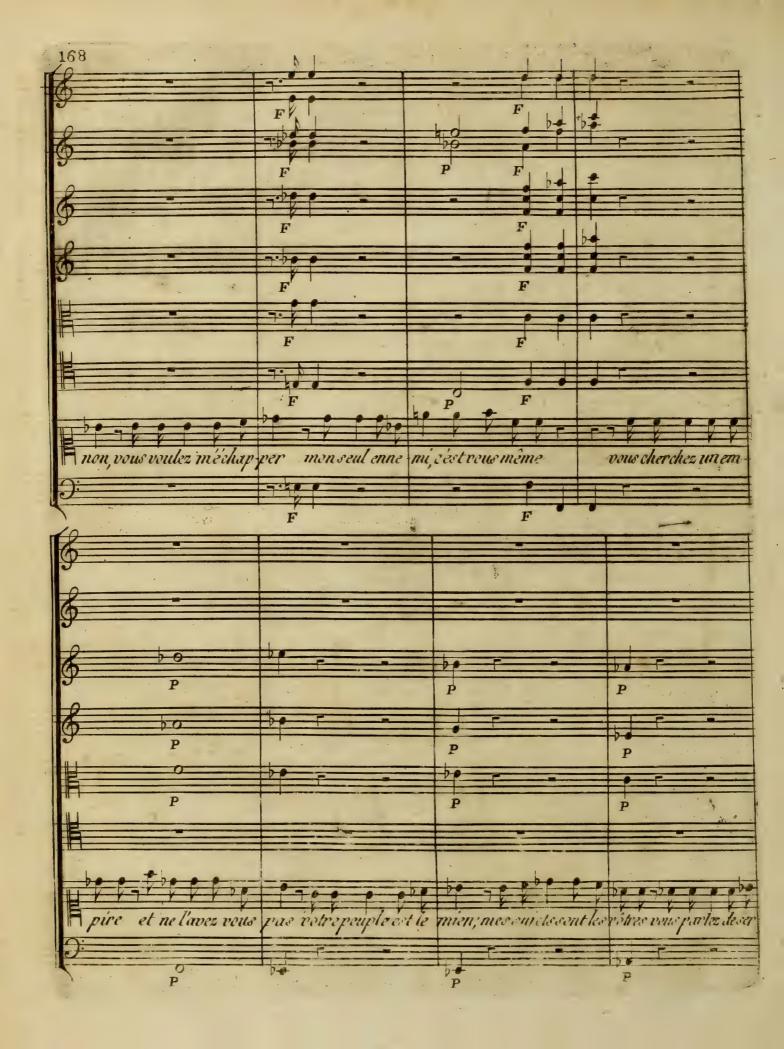


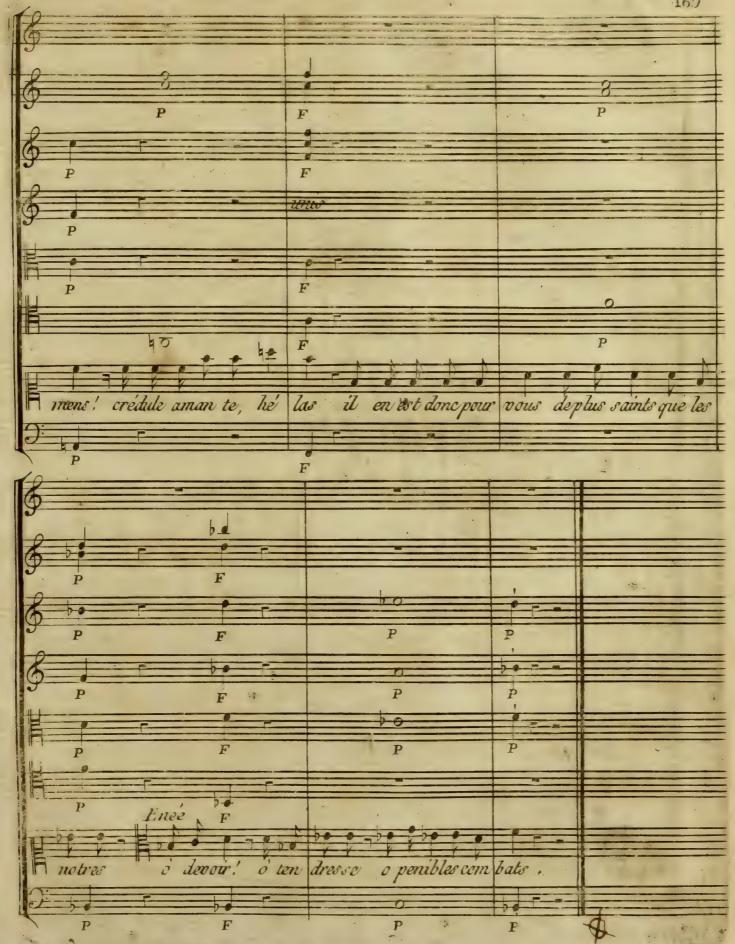


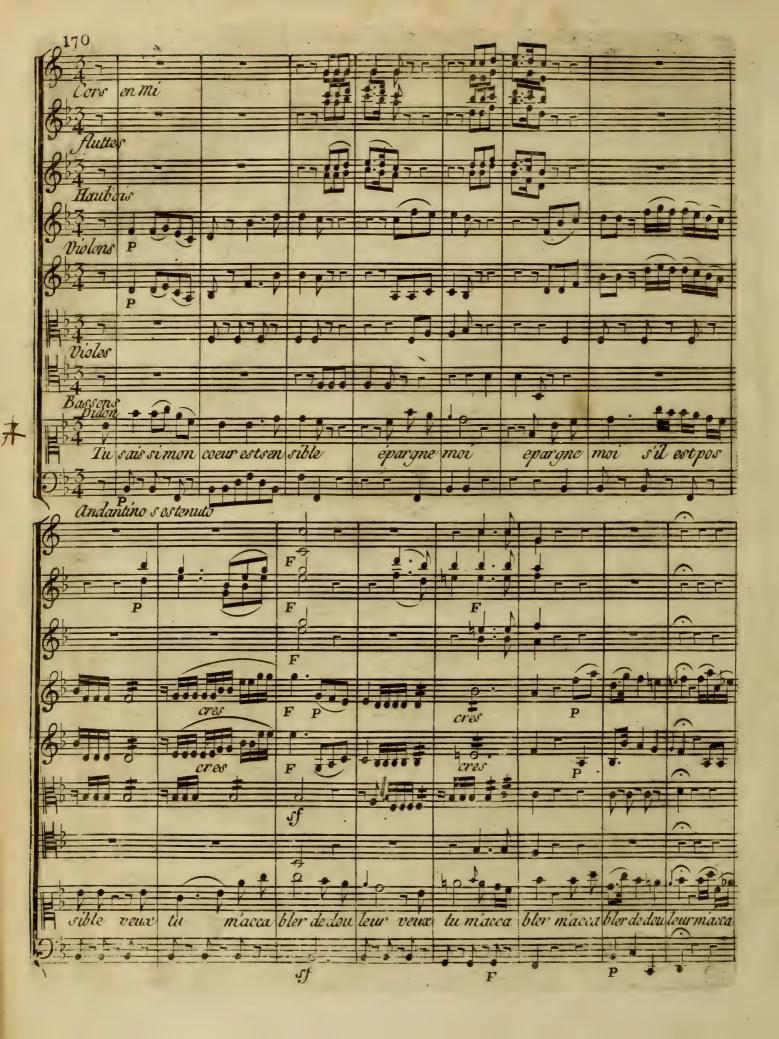


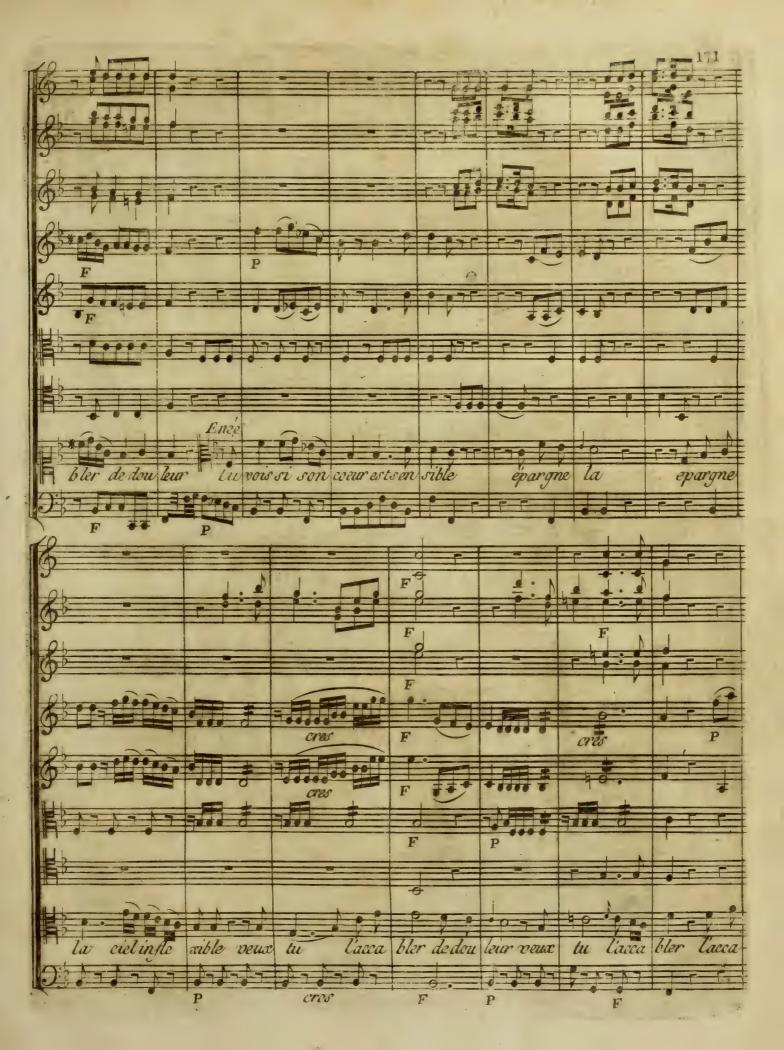


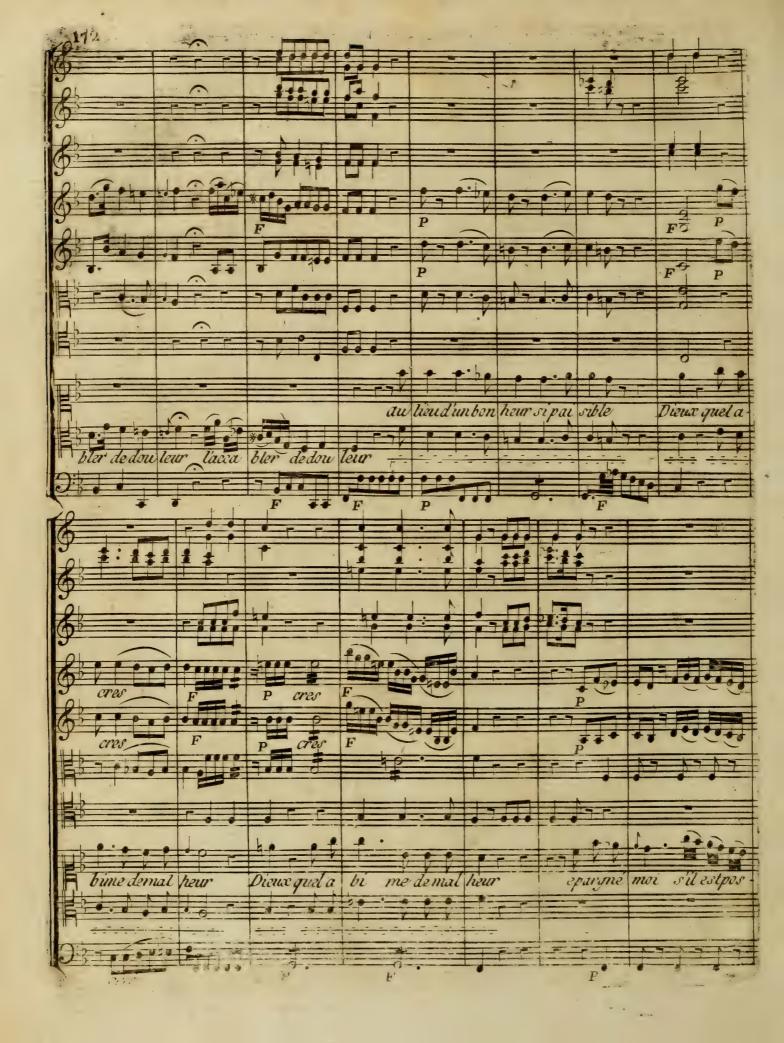


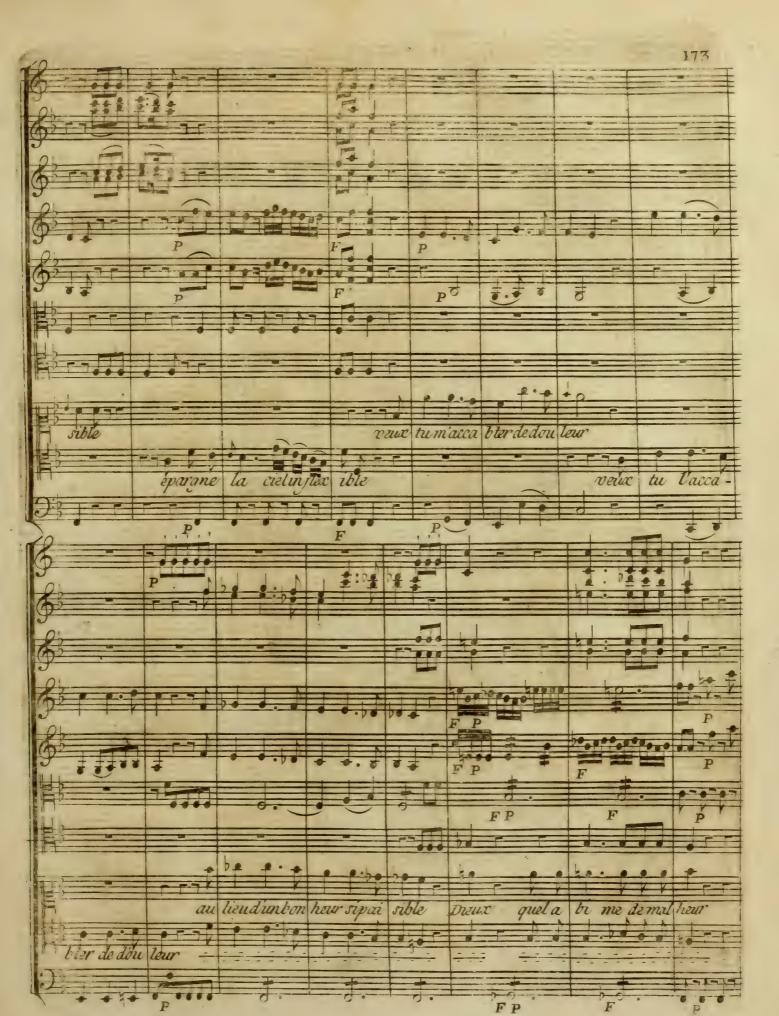


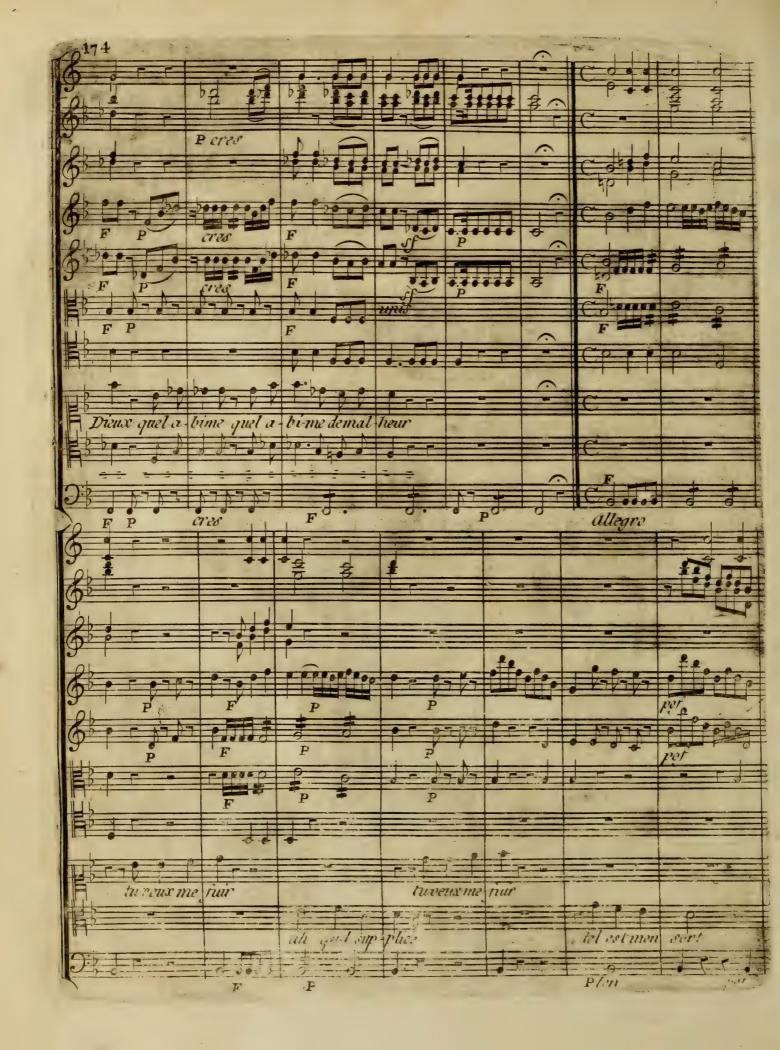


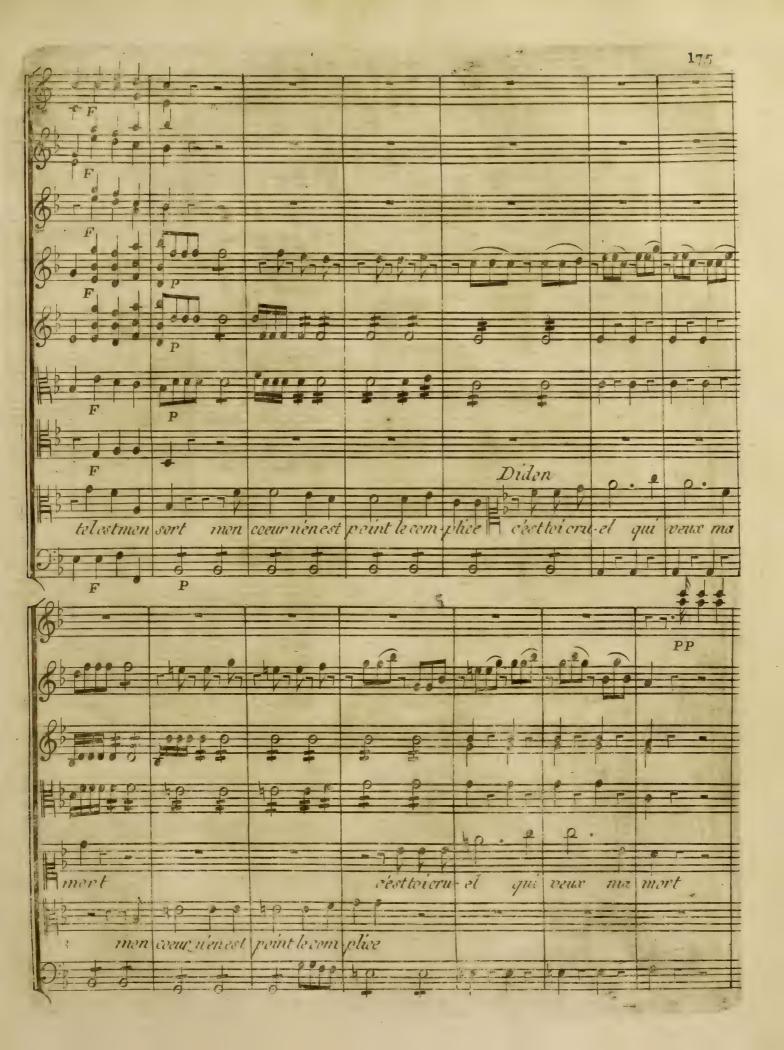


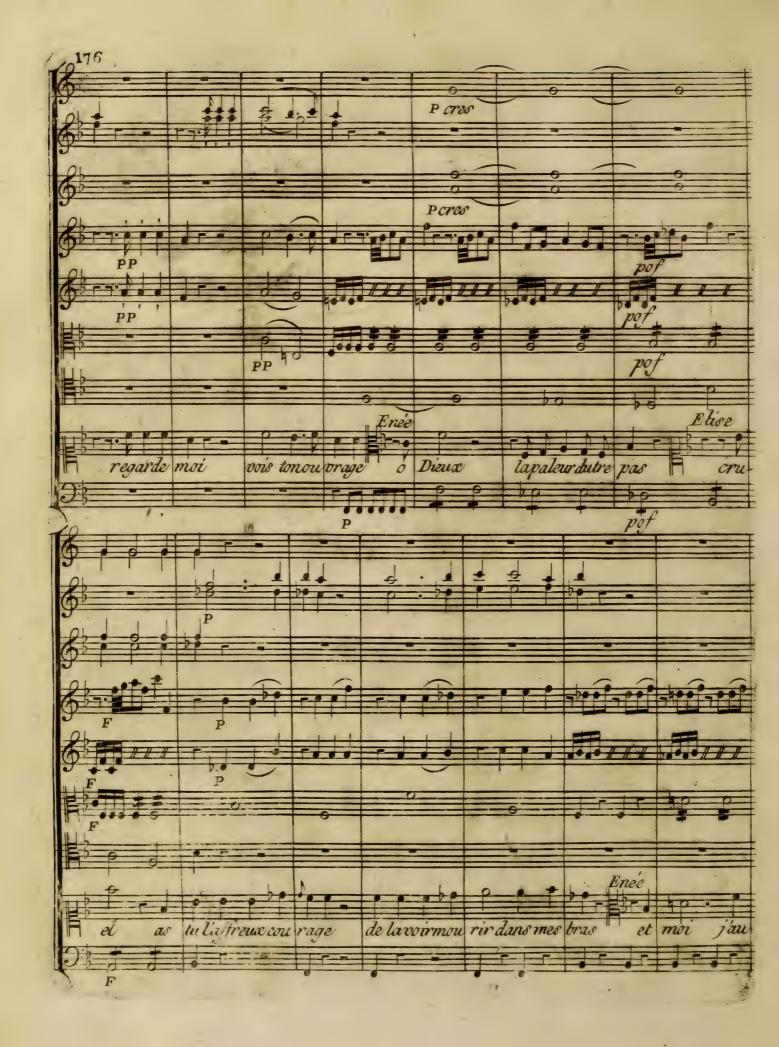


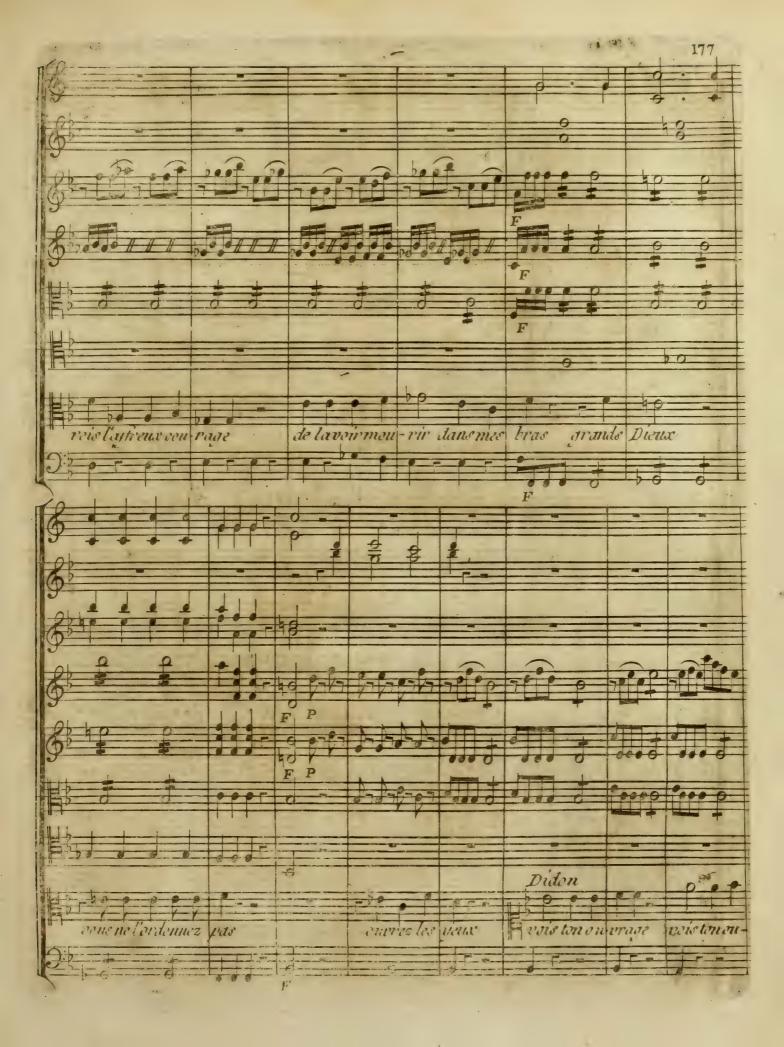


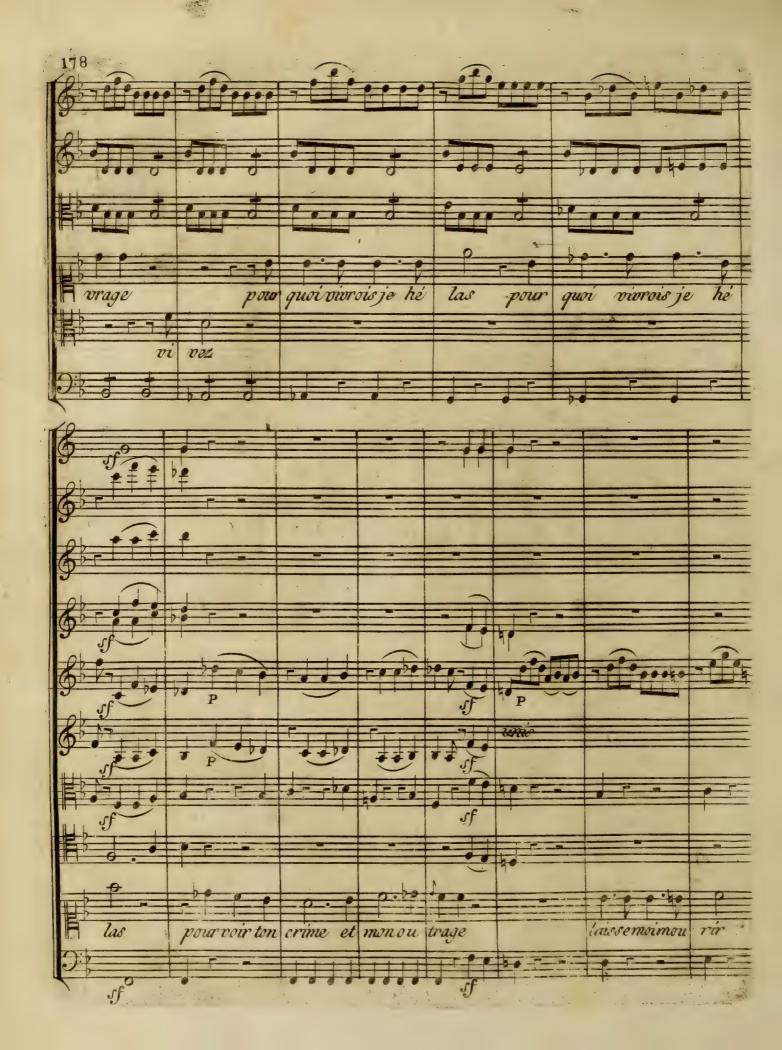


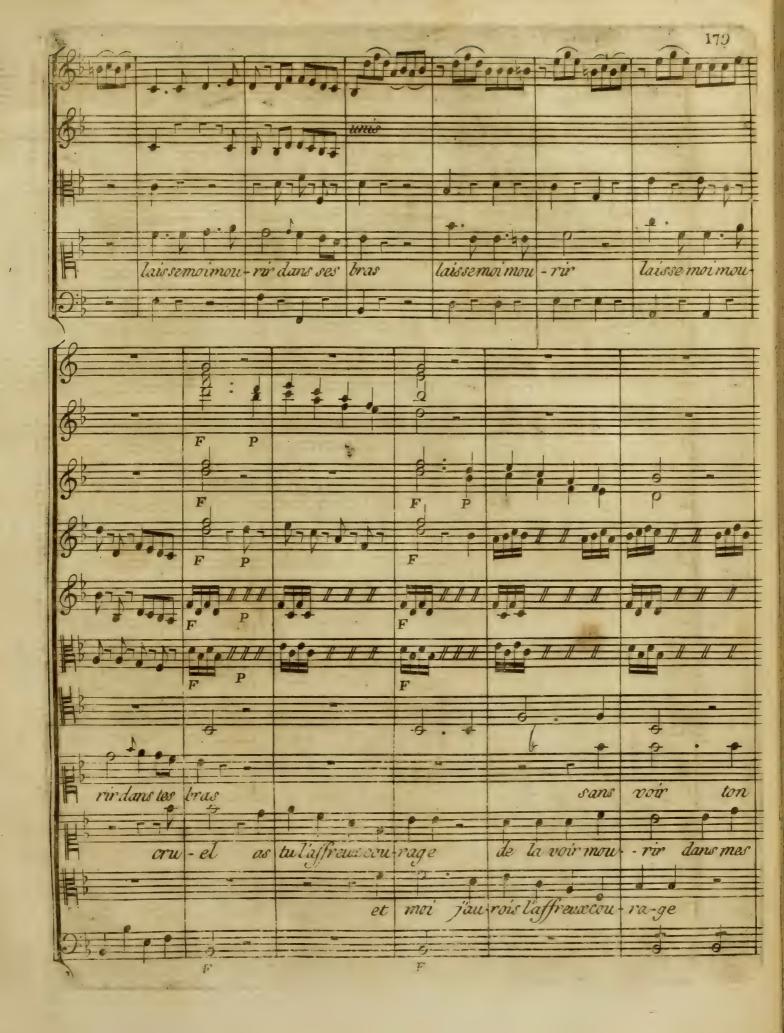


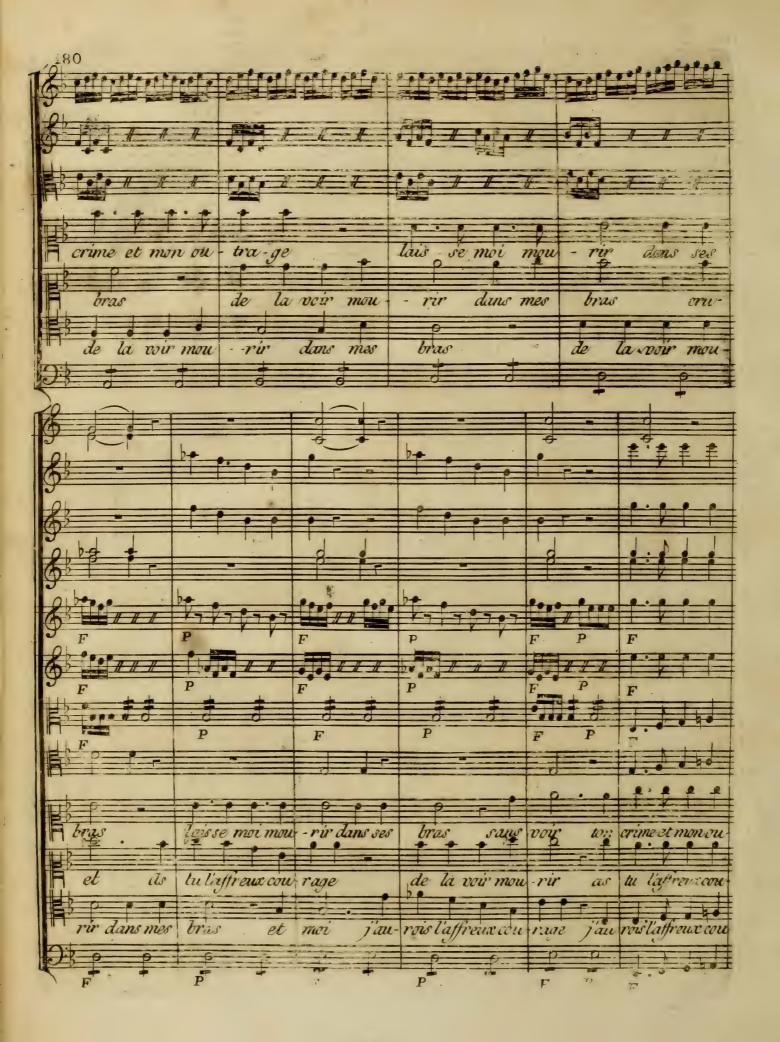


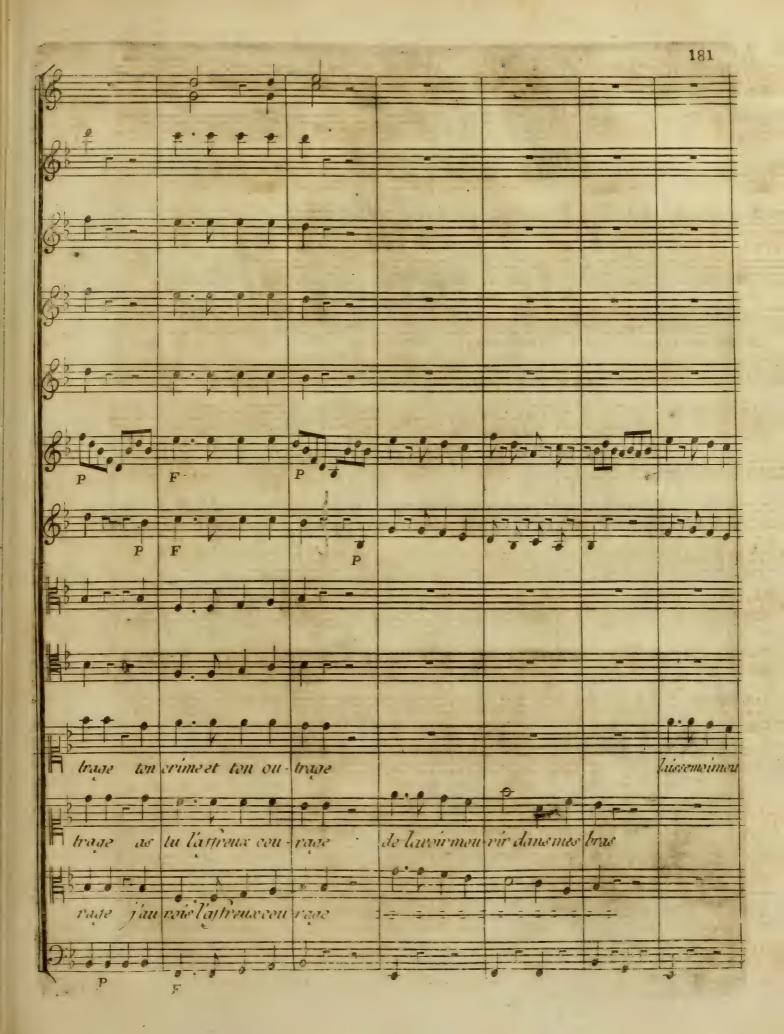










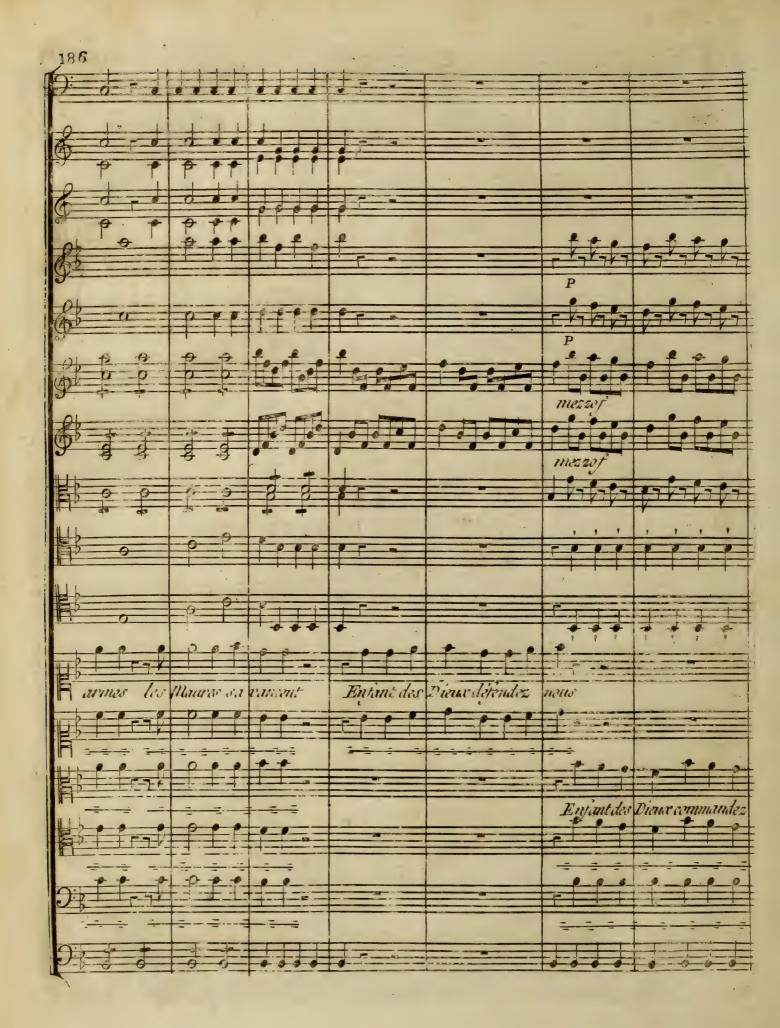


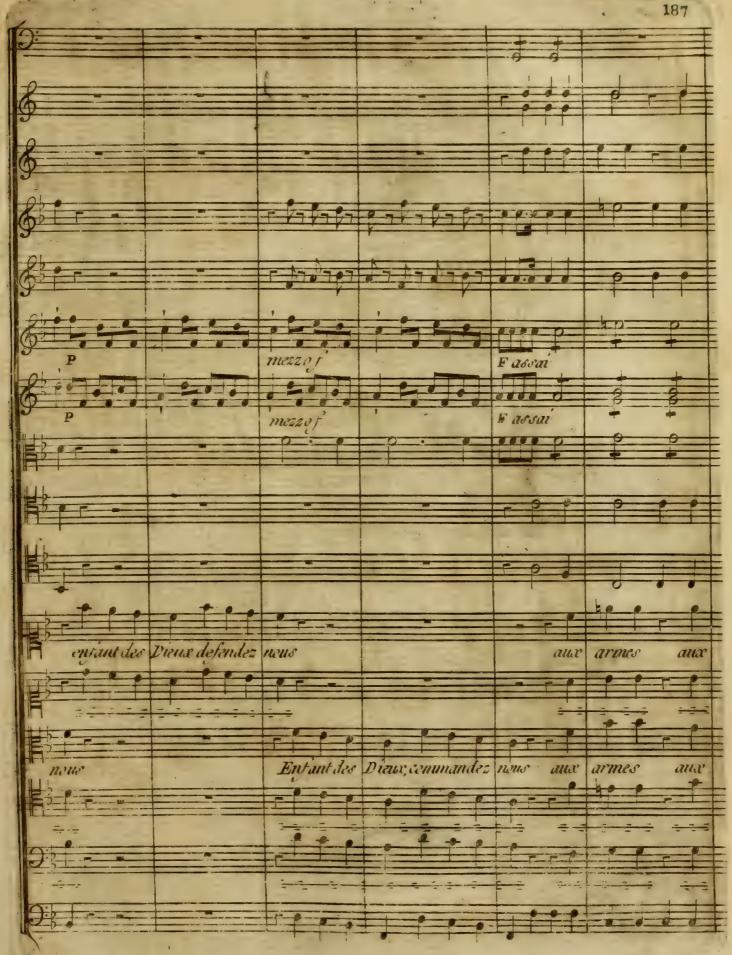


184 Maw Haubeis F Victorio Violes Bassens bras aux armes allegro prost.

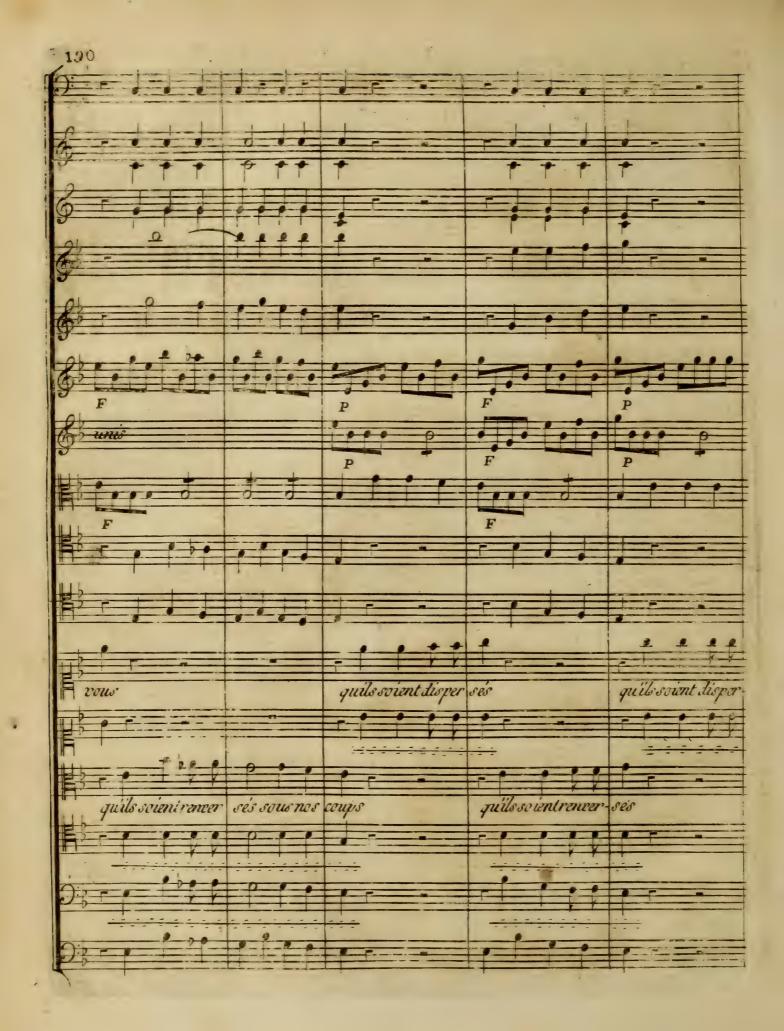
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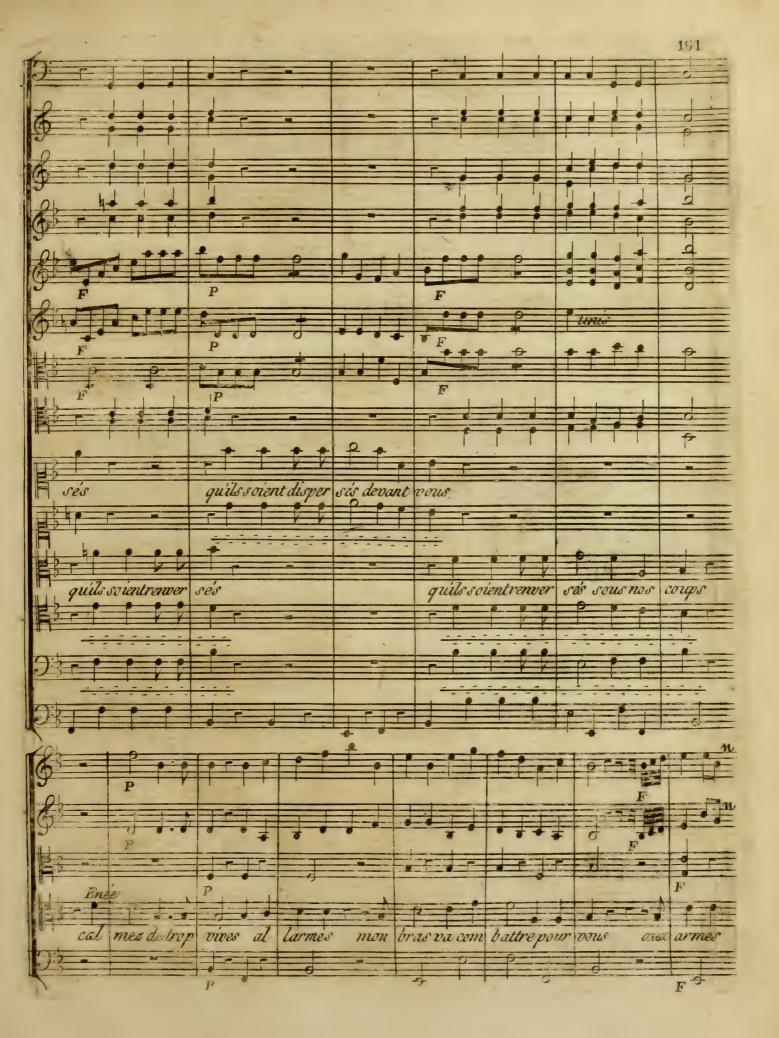




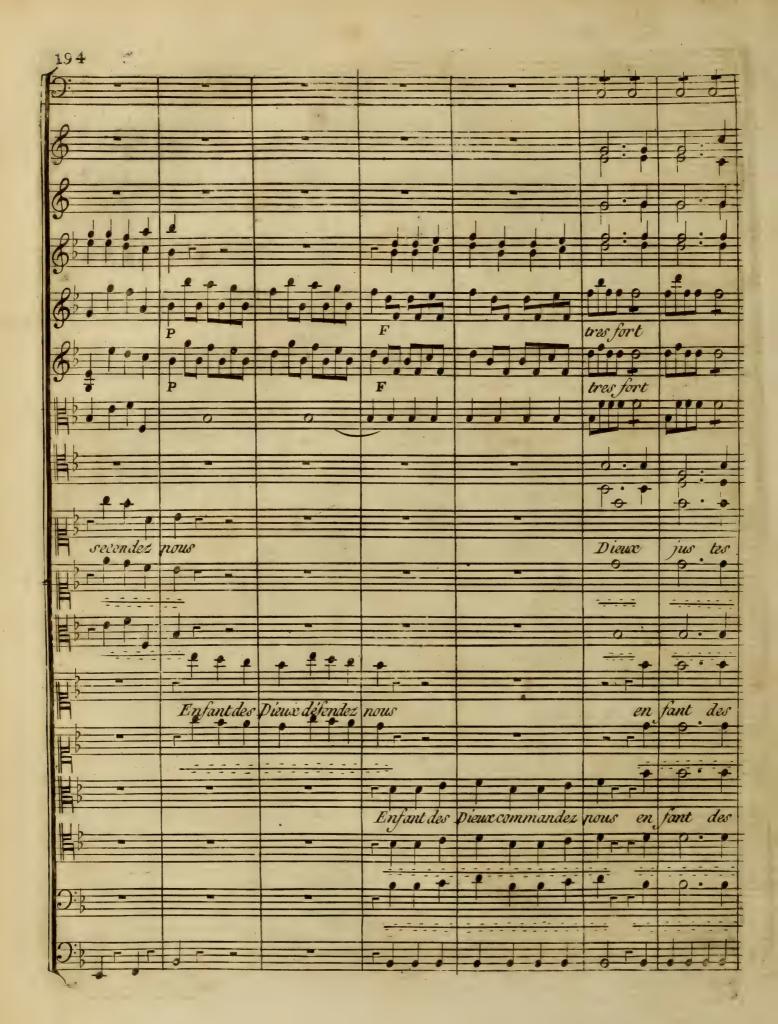


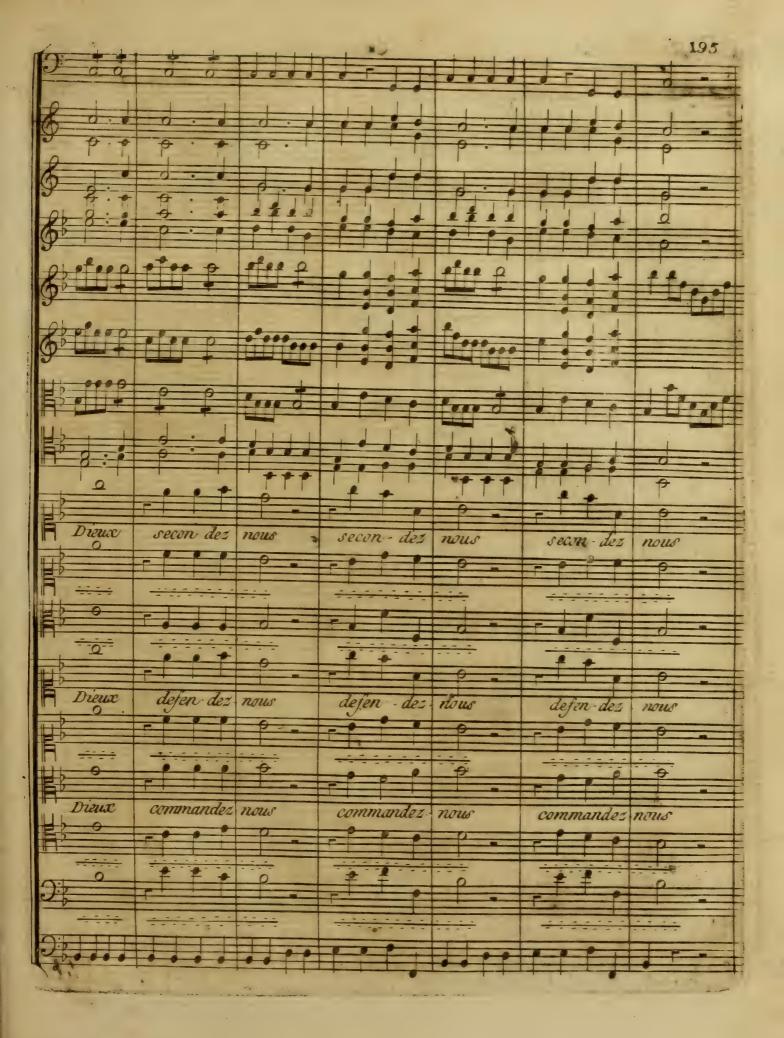












FFFFFFFFFFFFFFF Fin du 2º Acte

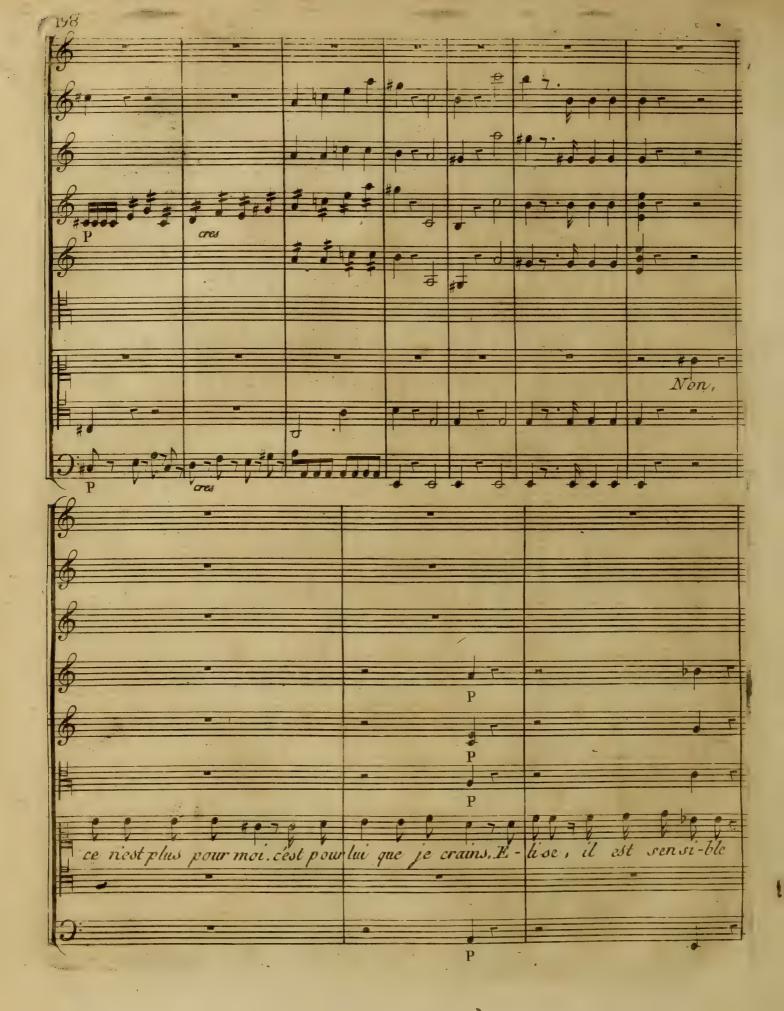
ACTE III

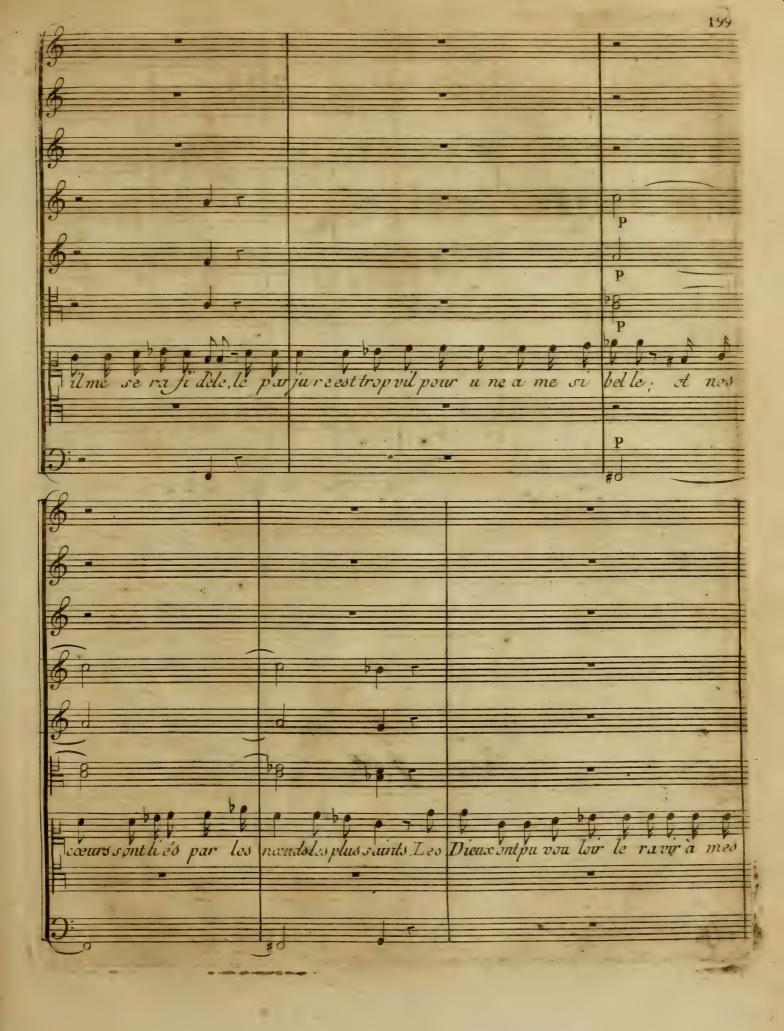
Le Théâtre représente le Péristile du Palais de DIDON; en face du Palais, le tombeau de SICHÉ; au fond, à travers les Colonnes, on voit la Mer, et un coin du Port de Carthage,

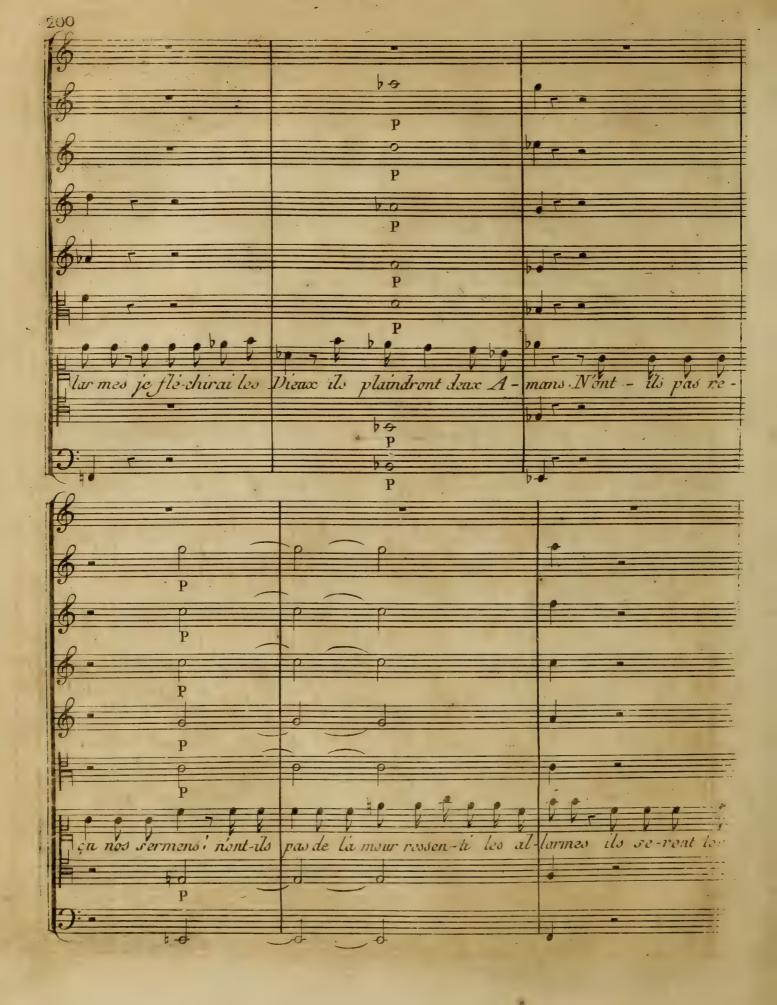
SCENE PREMIERE

DIDON ELISE

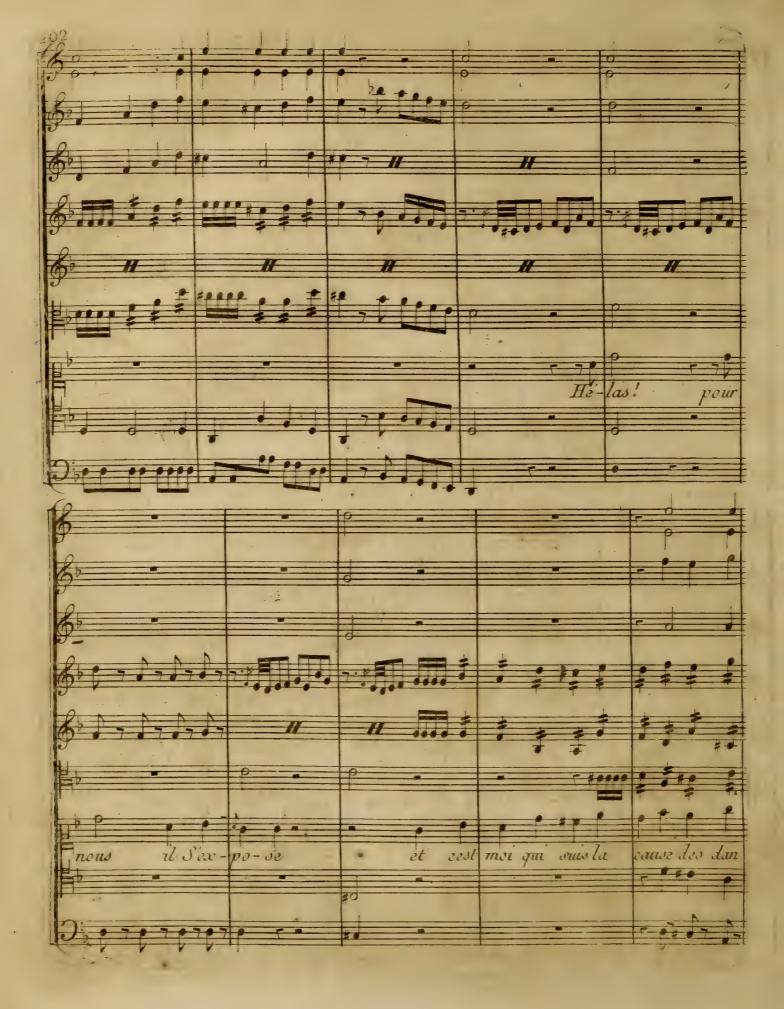


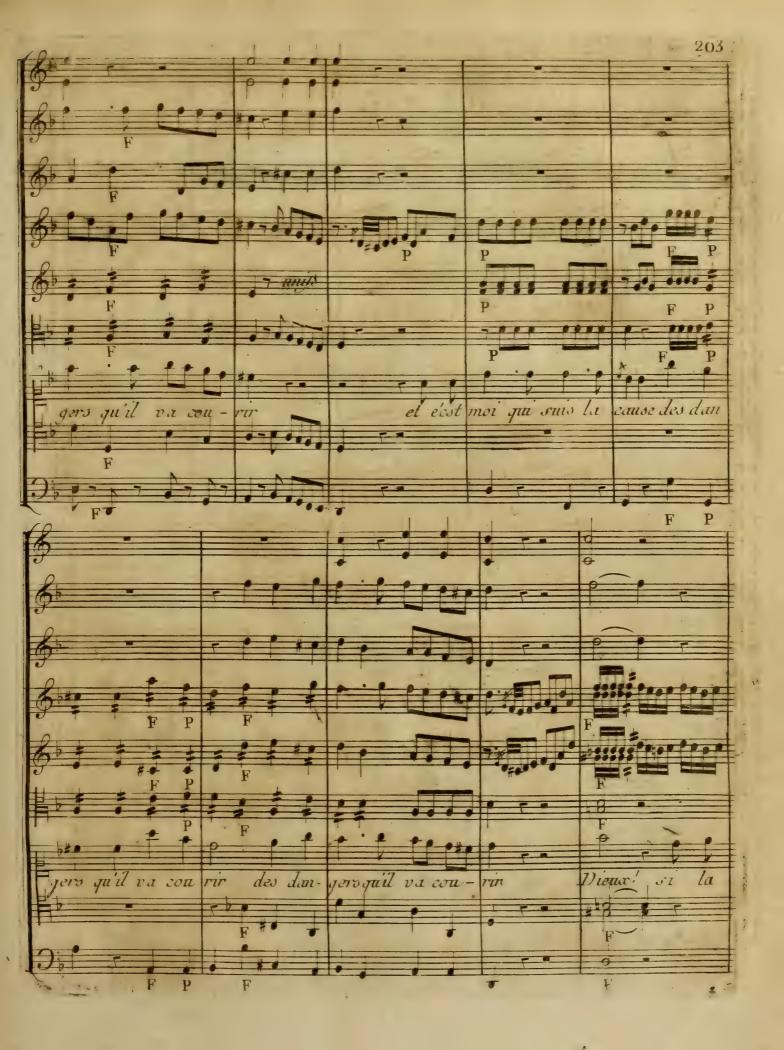




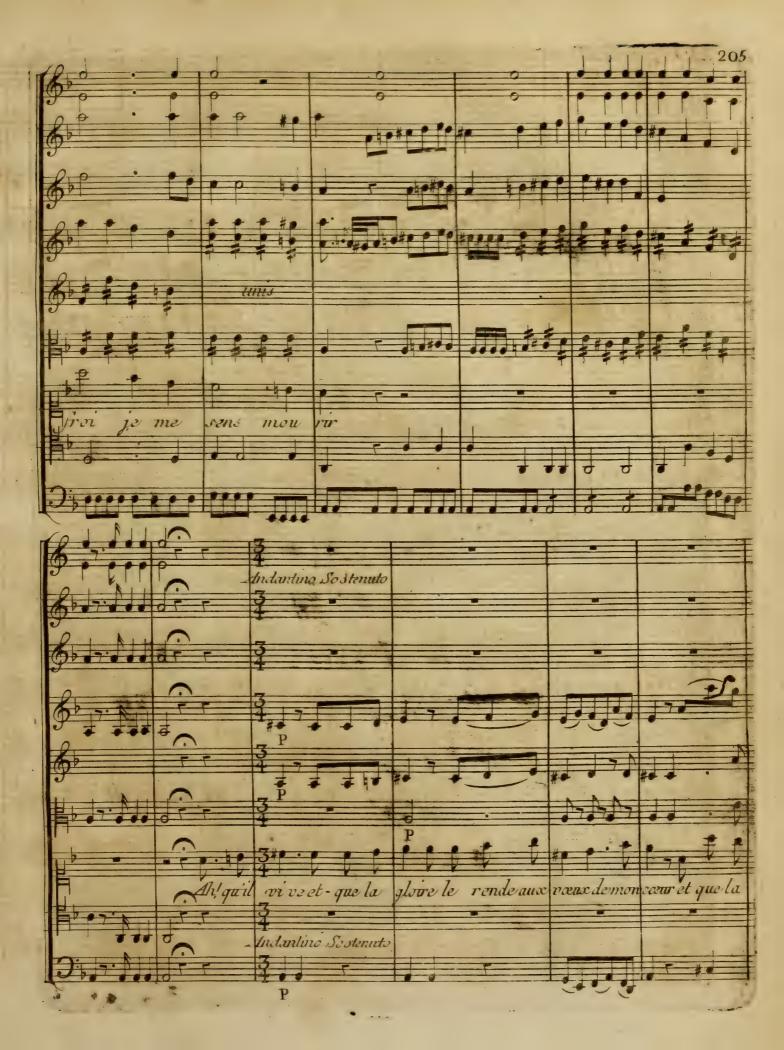




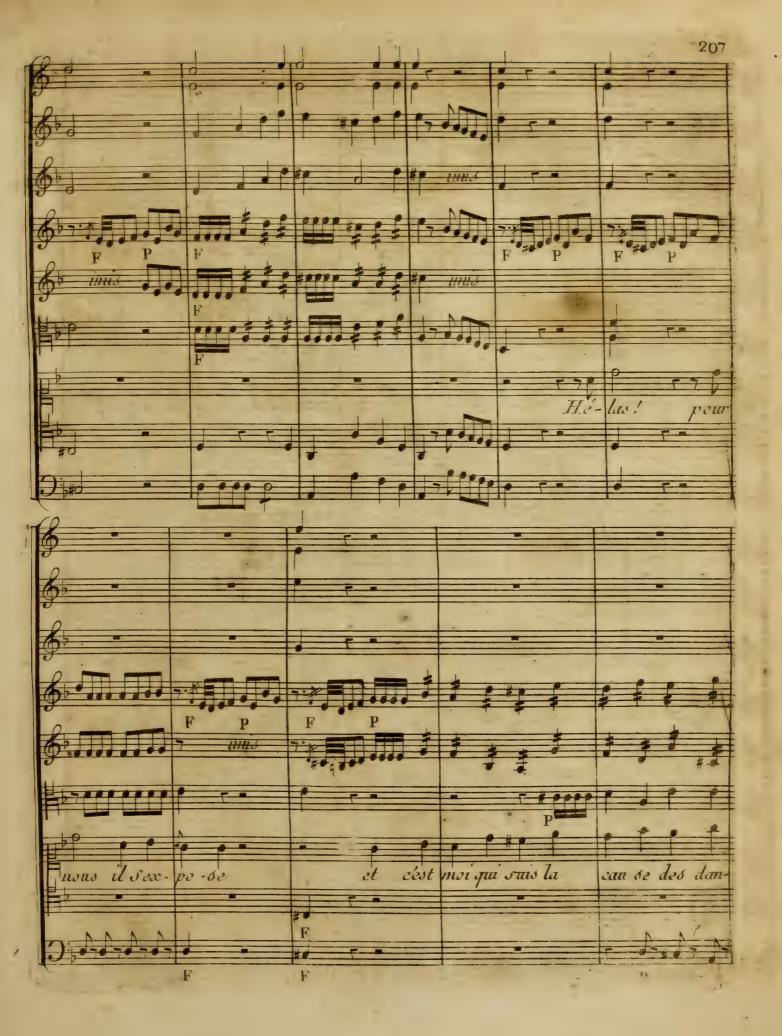


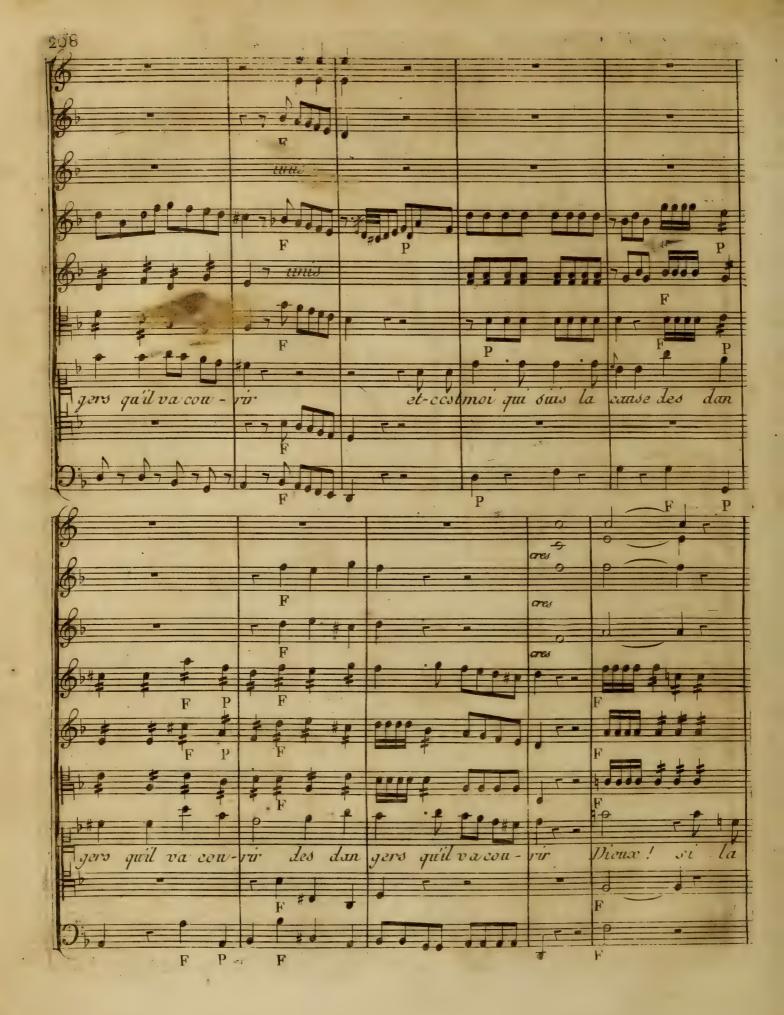


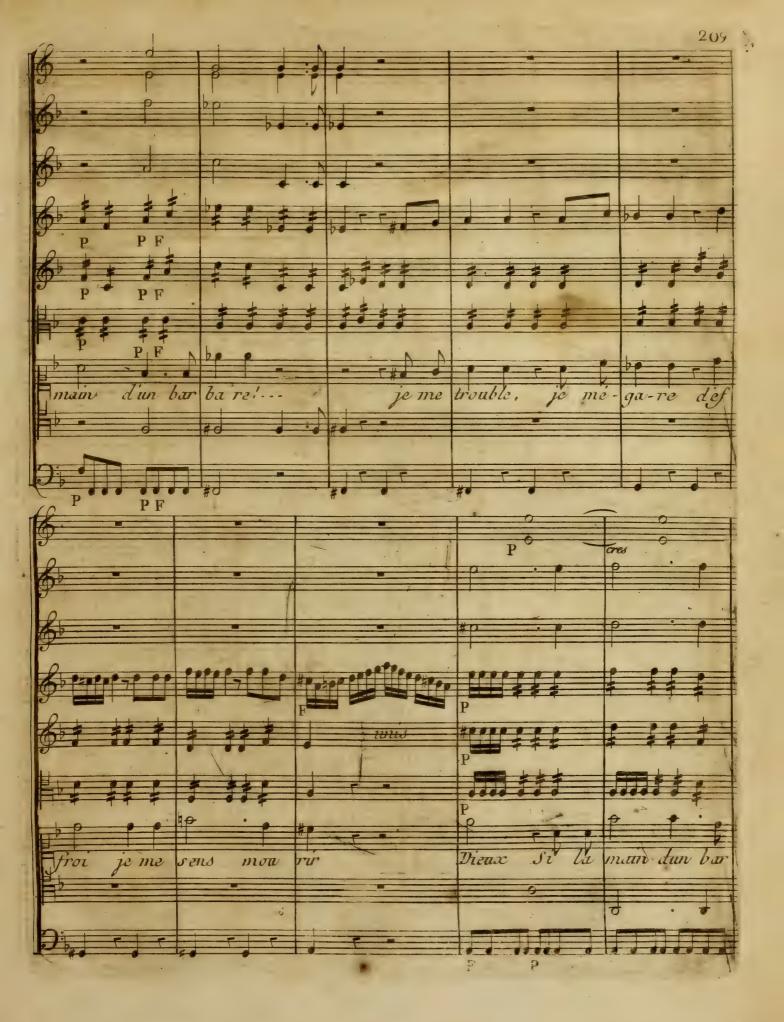


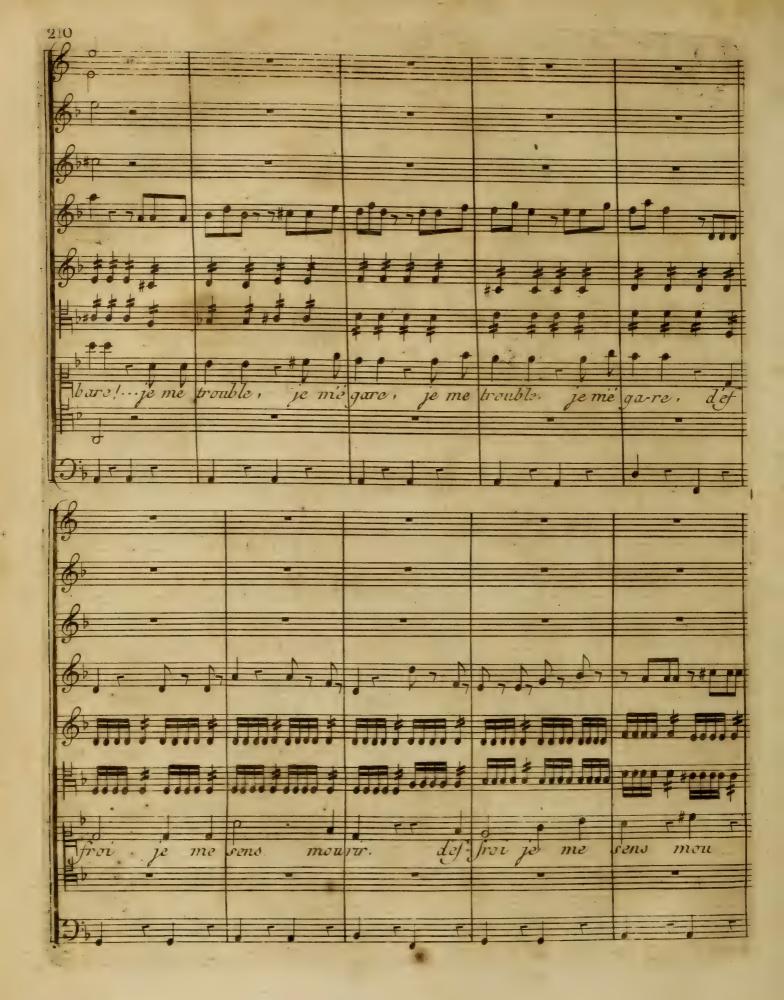




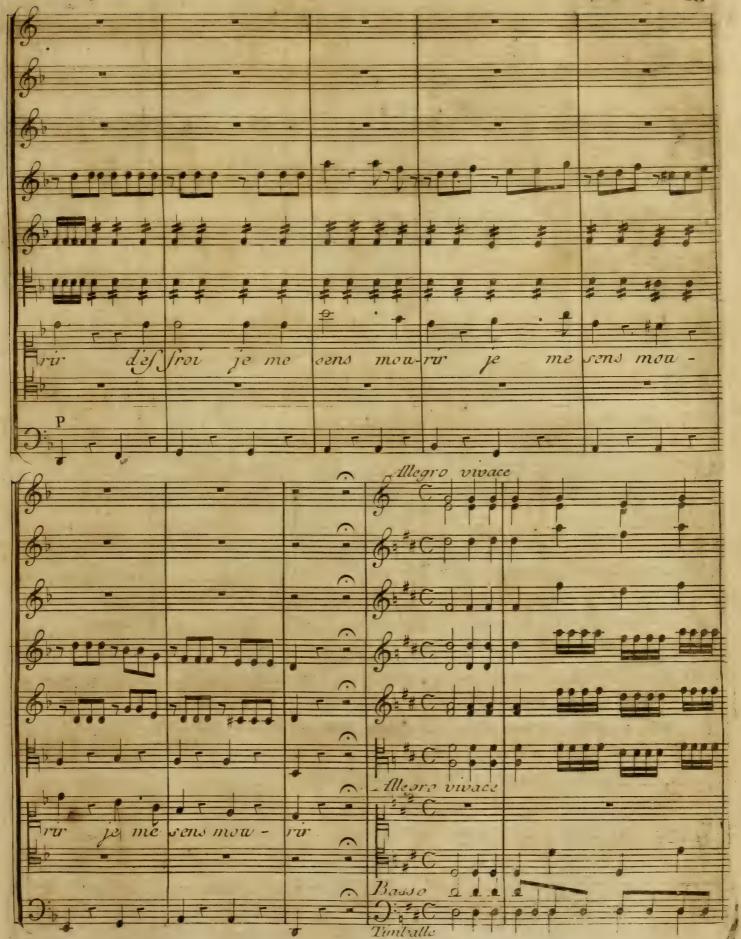


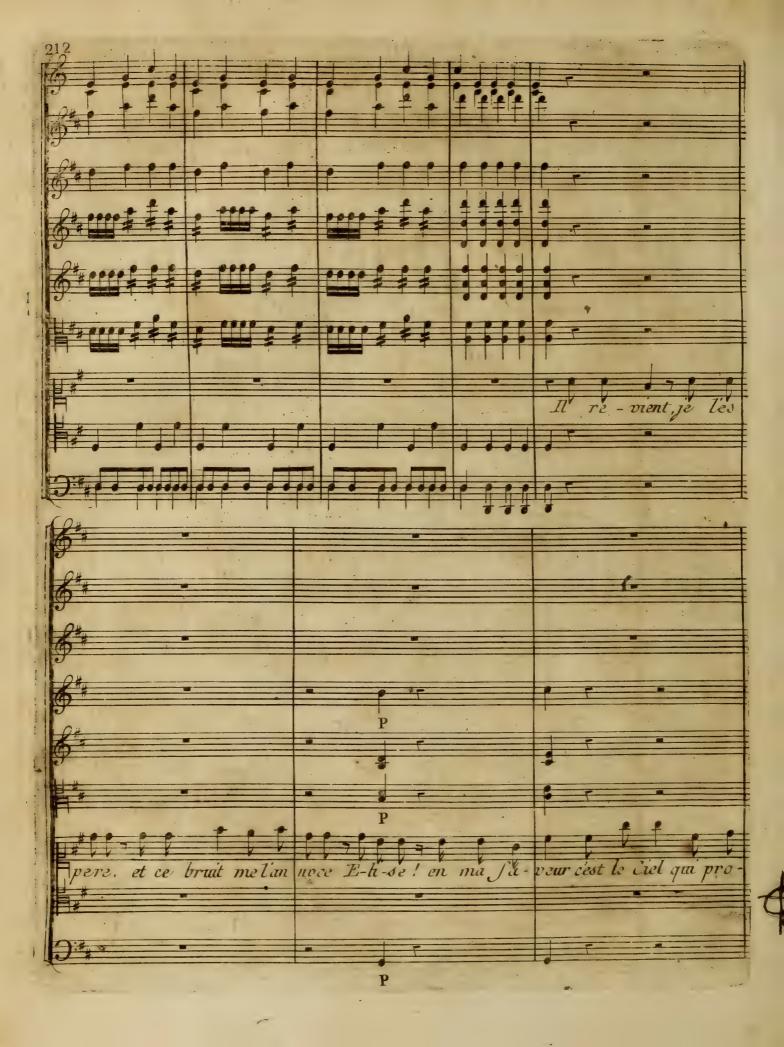




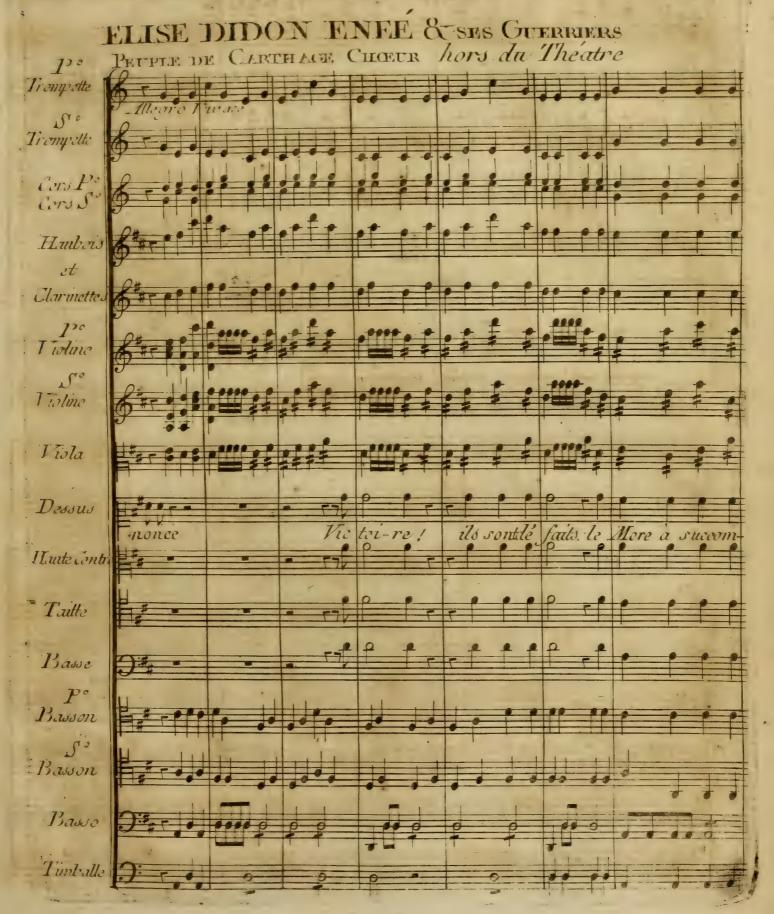




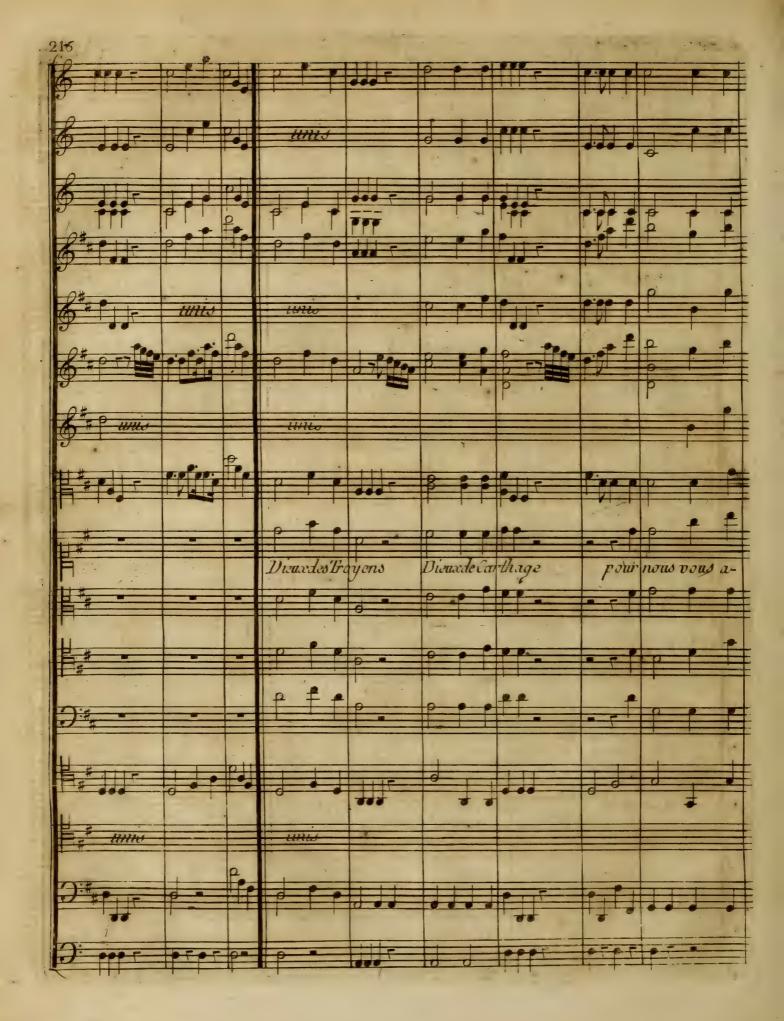


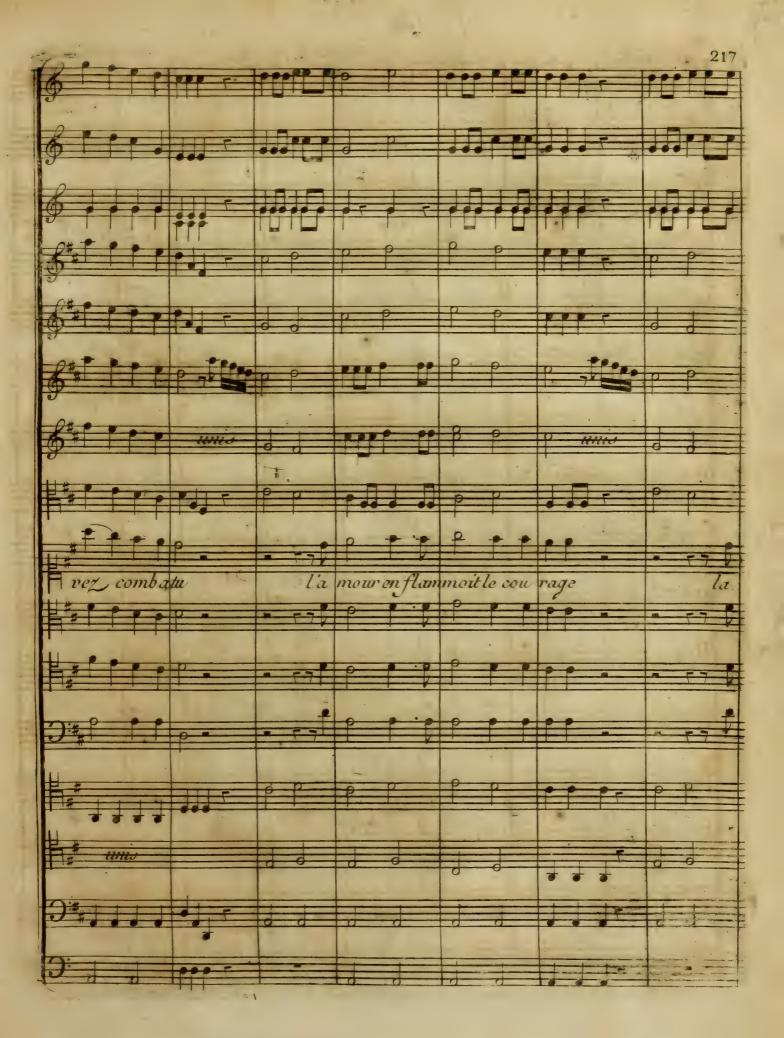


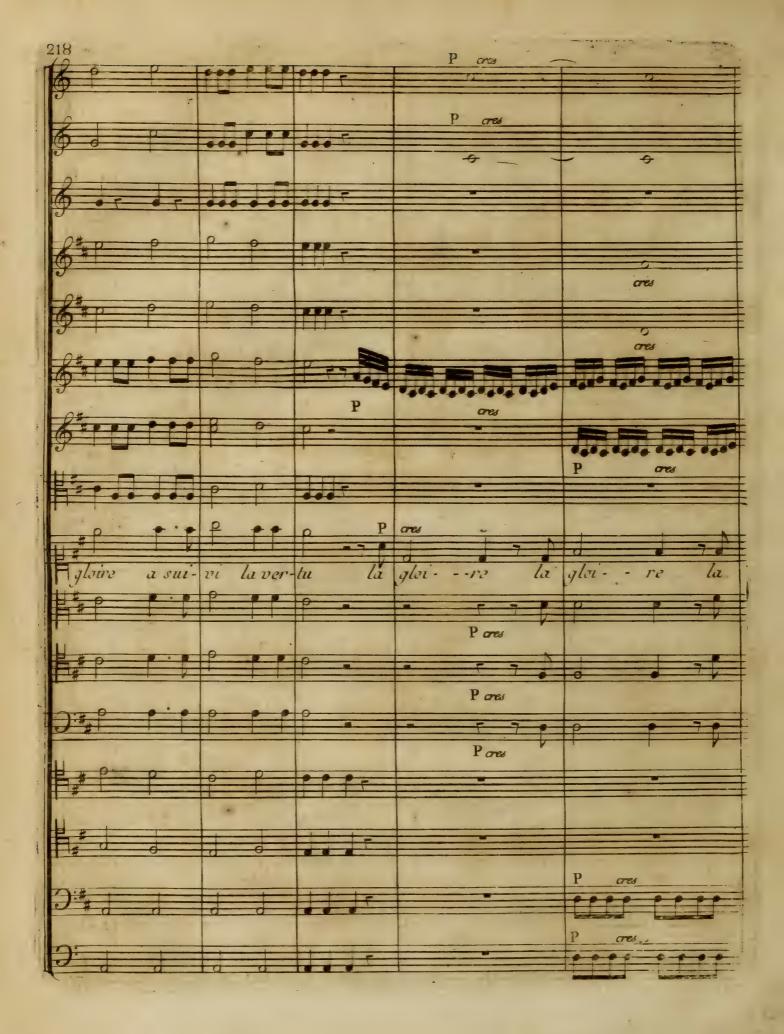
SCENEII



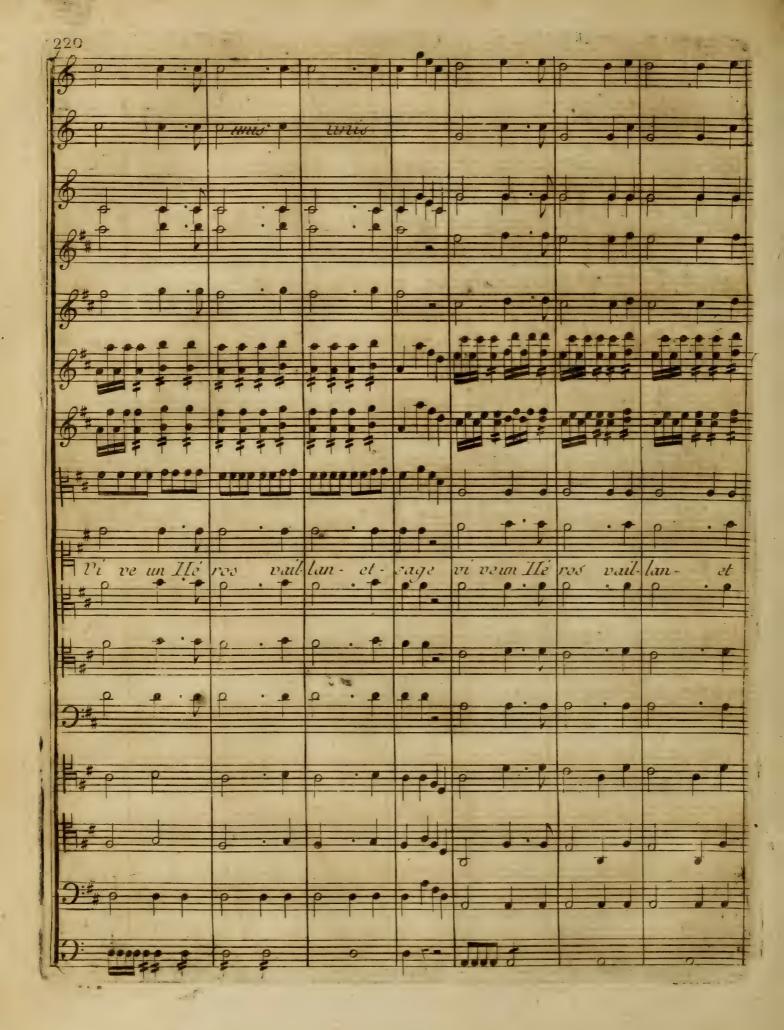






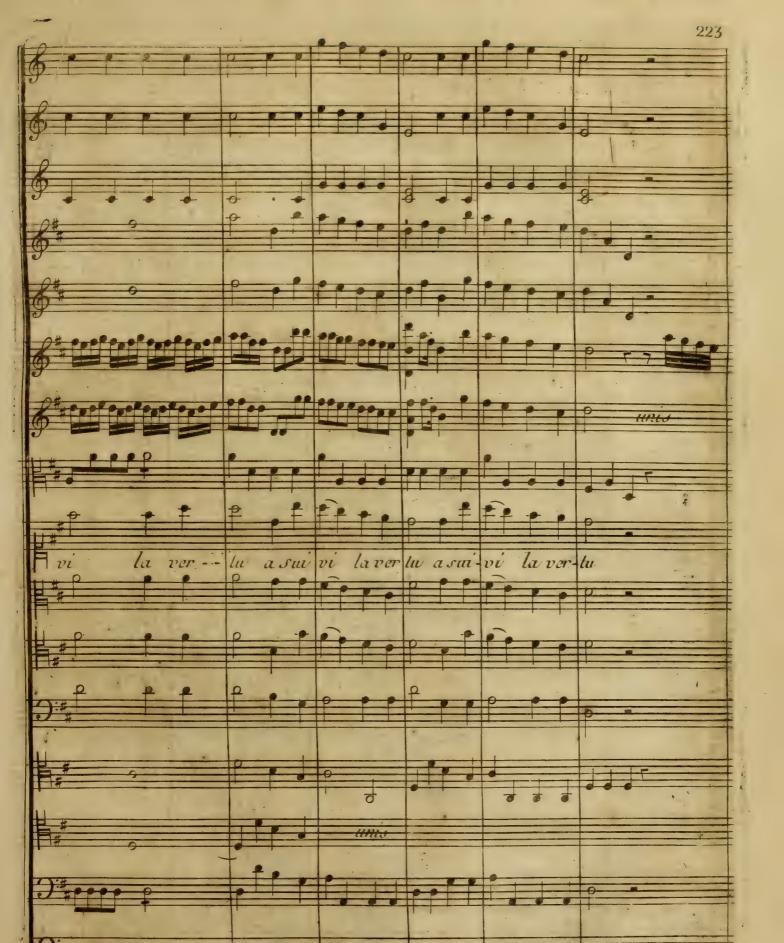


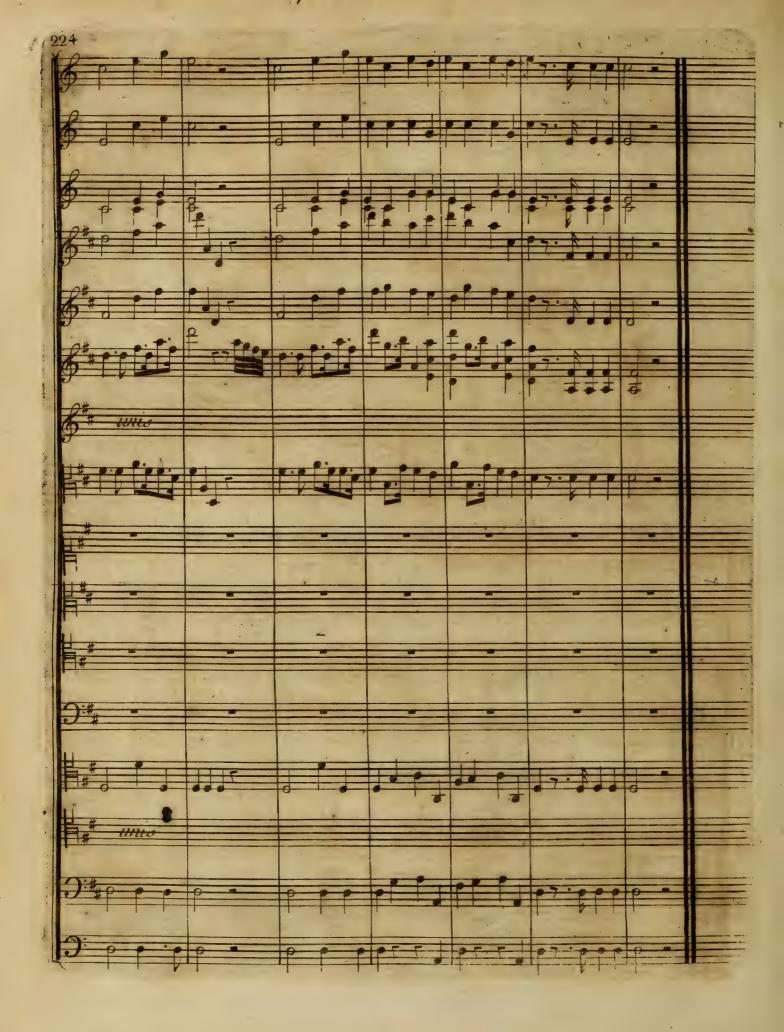






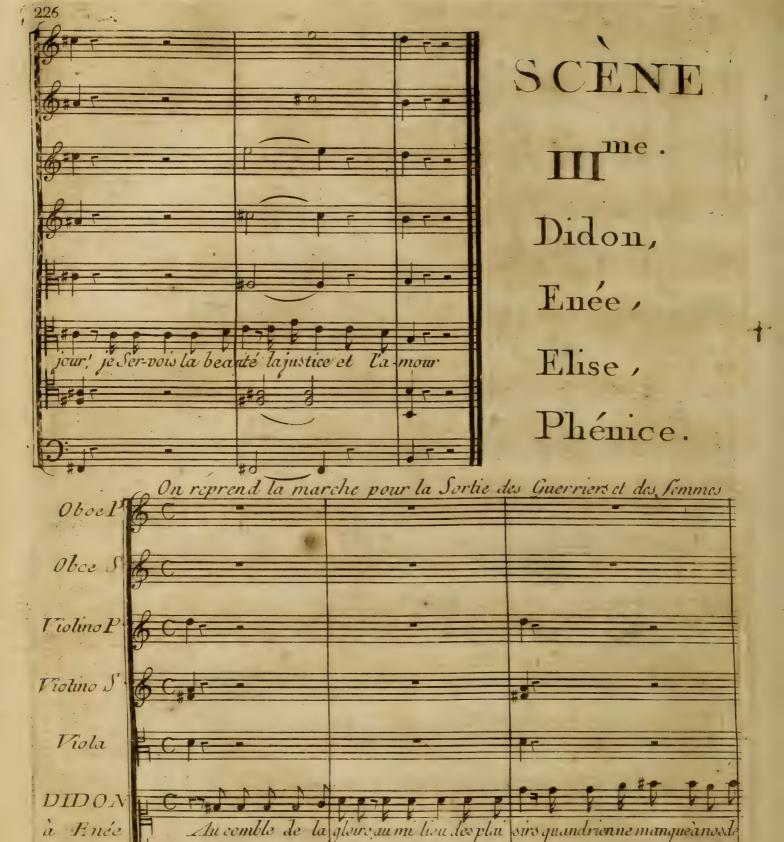




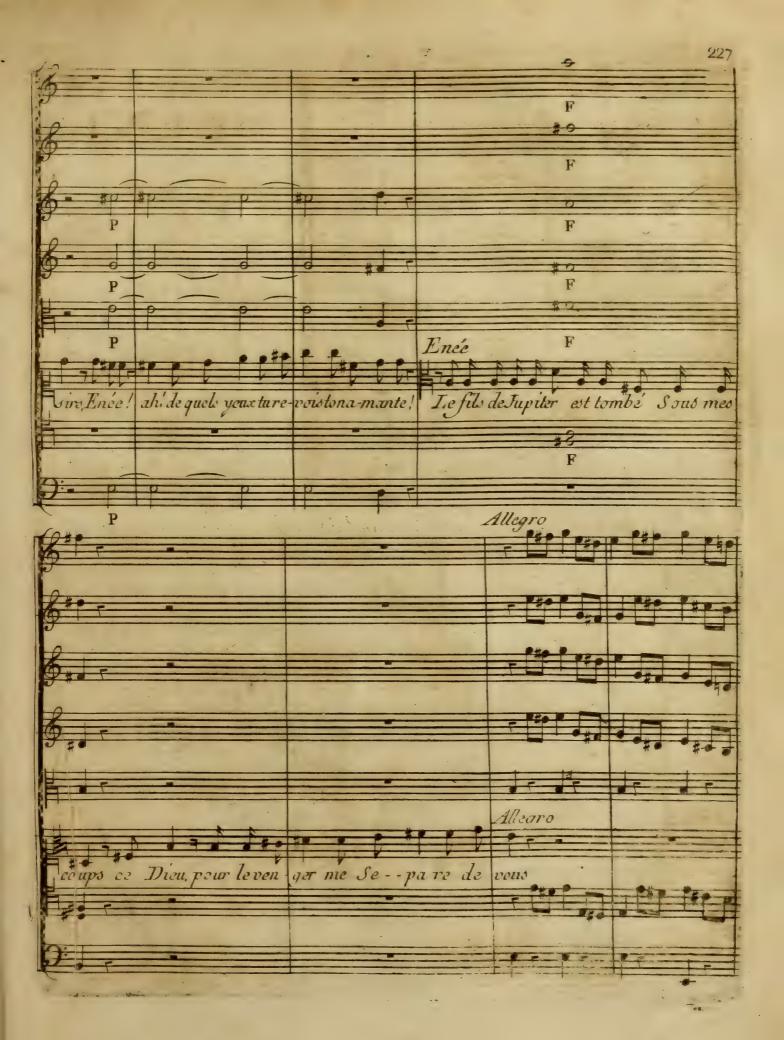






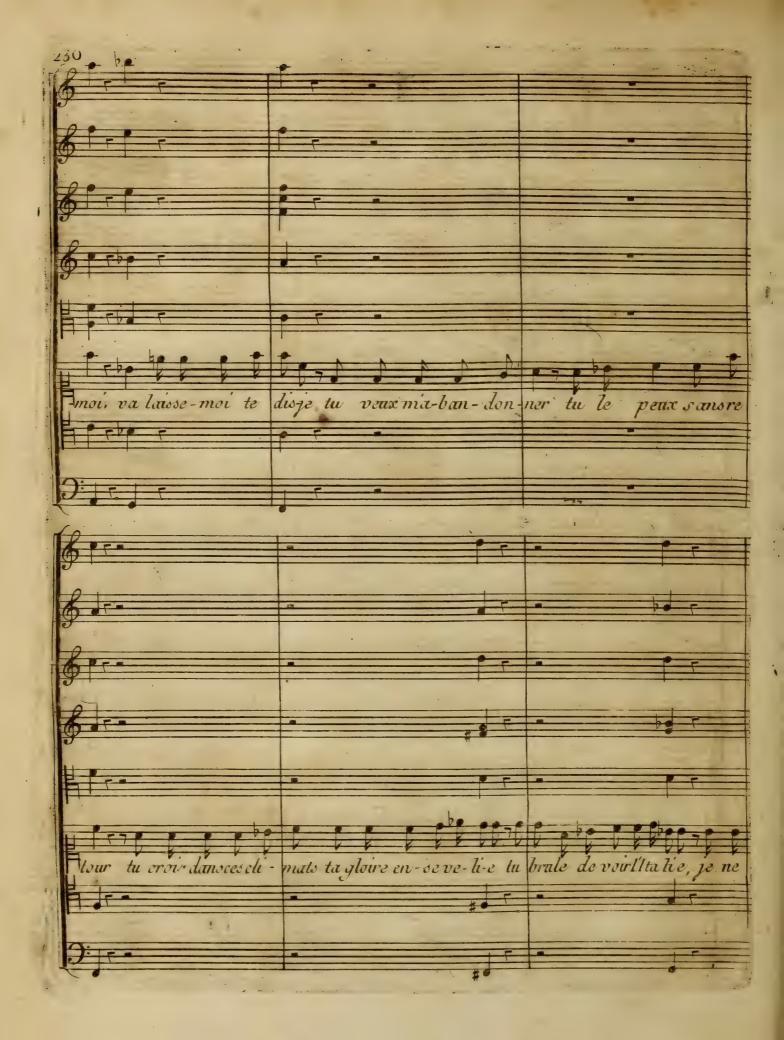


Favotto

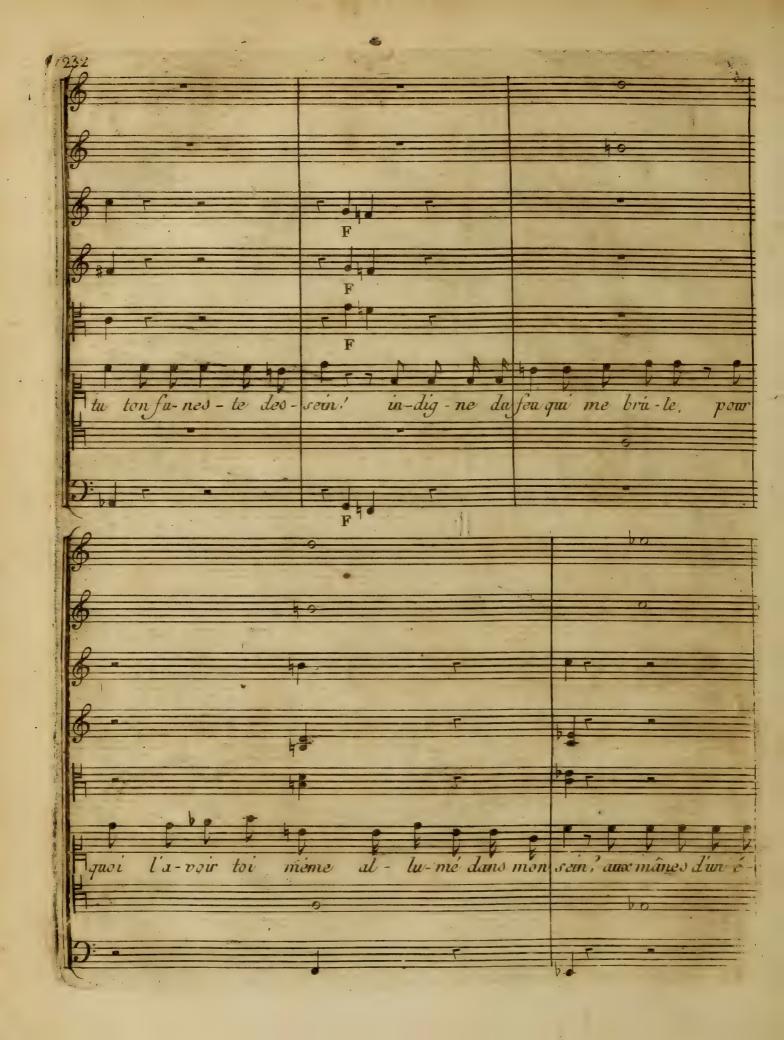




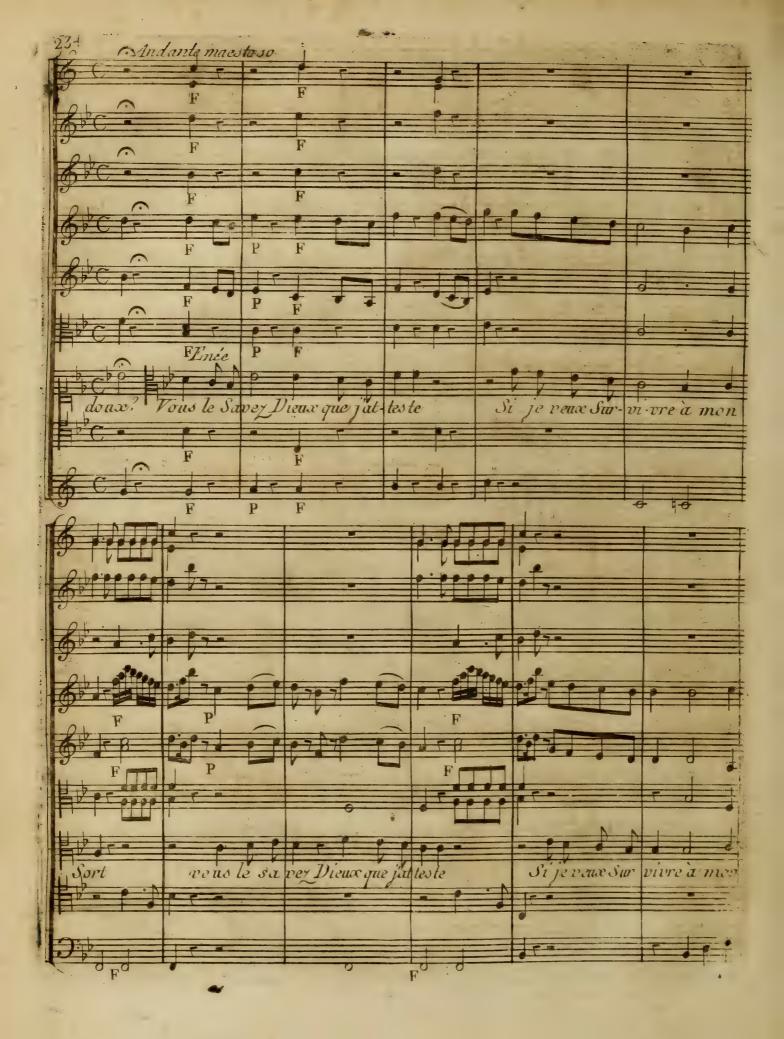


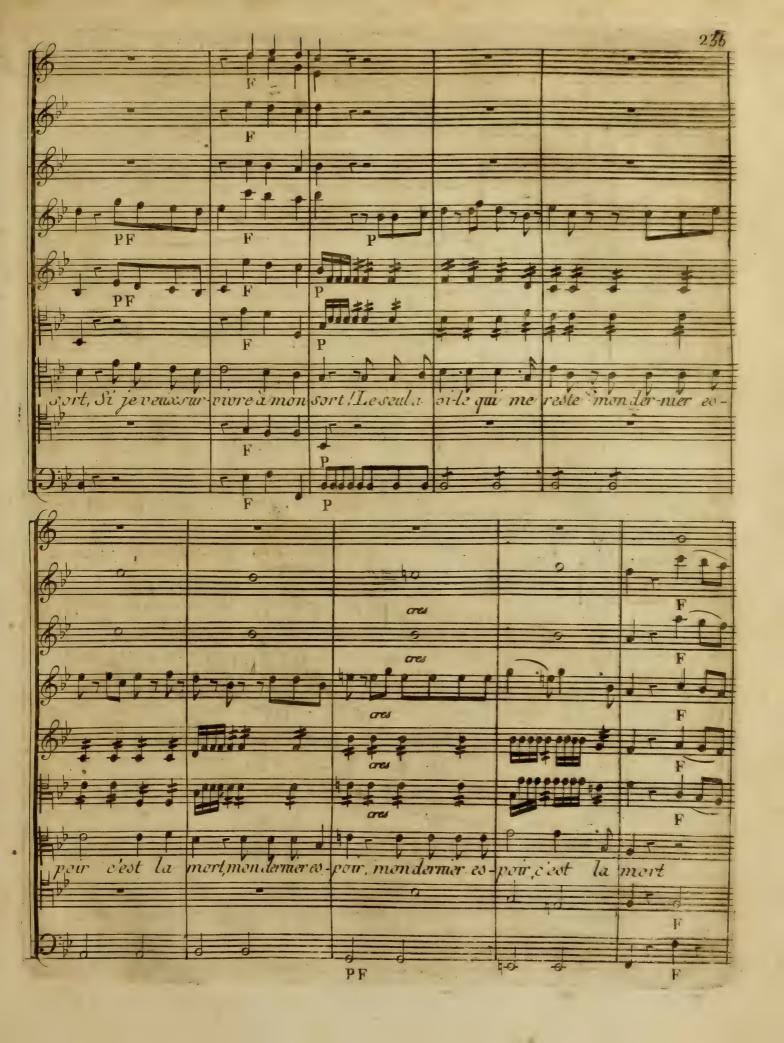


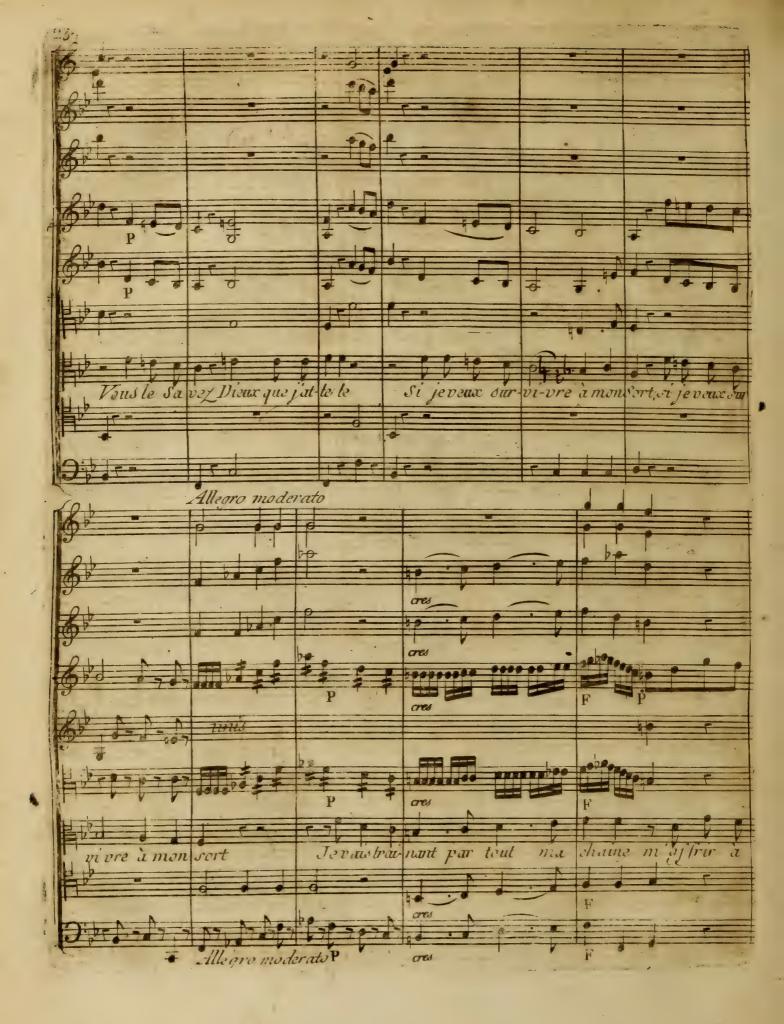


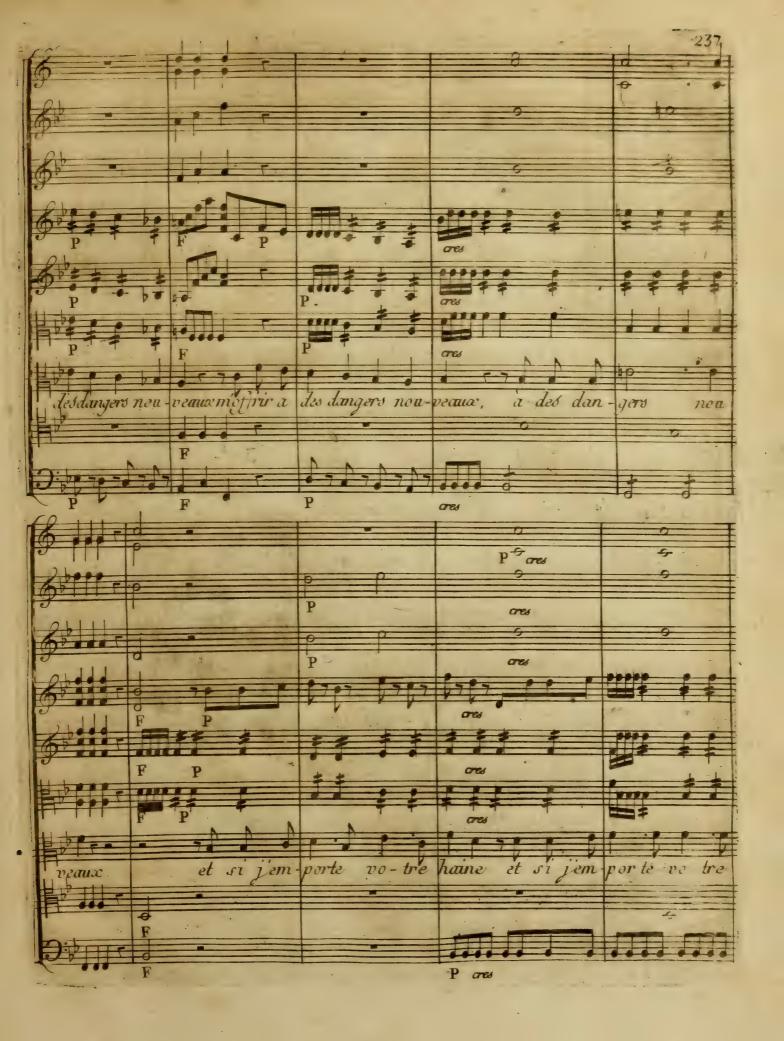


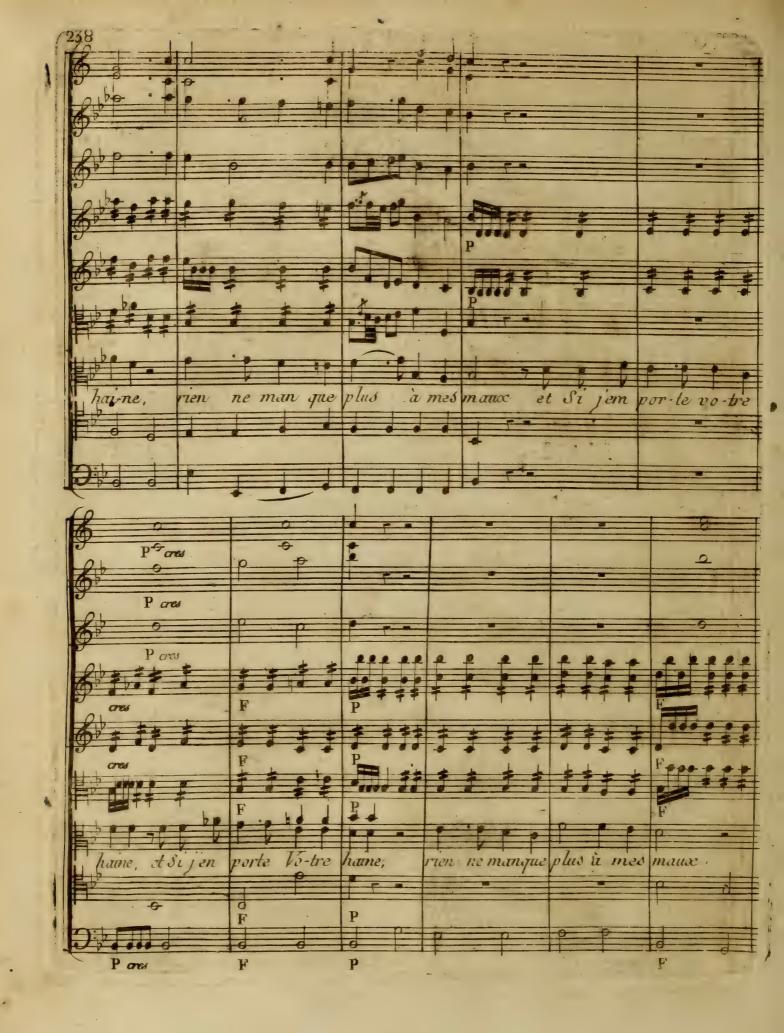


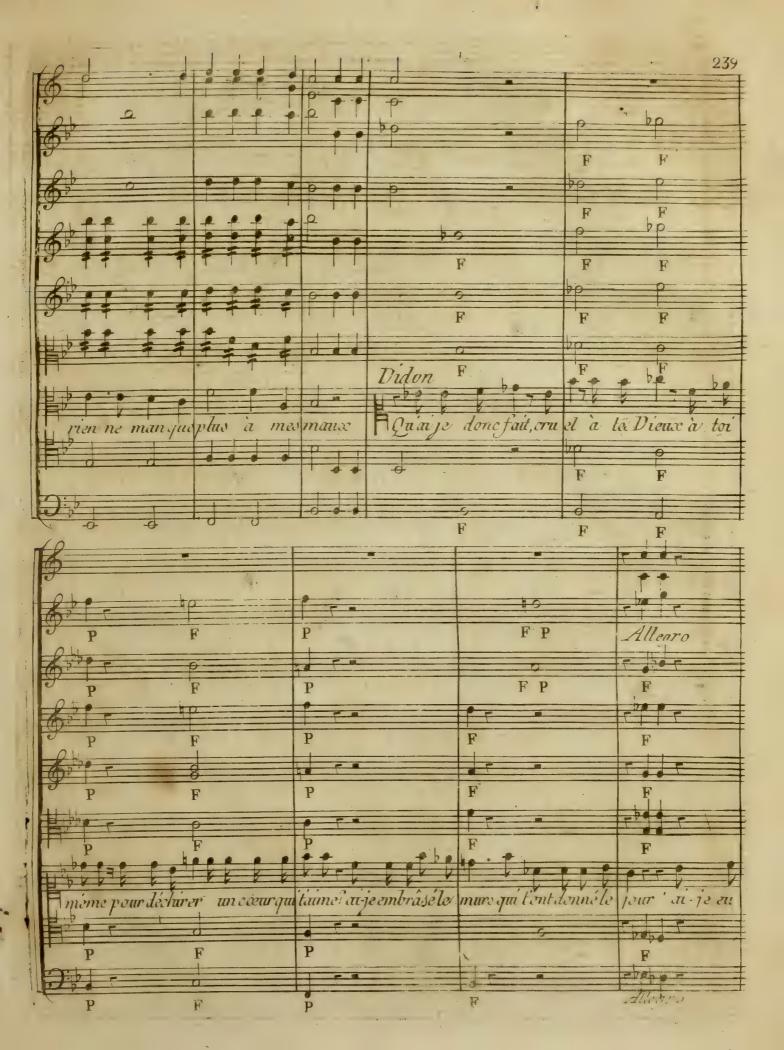


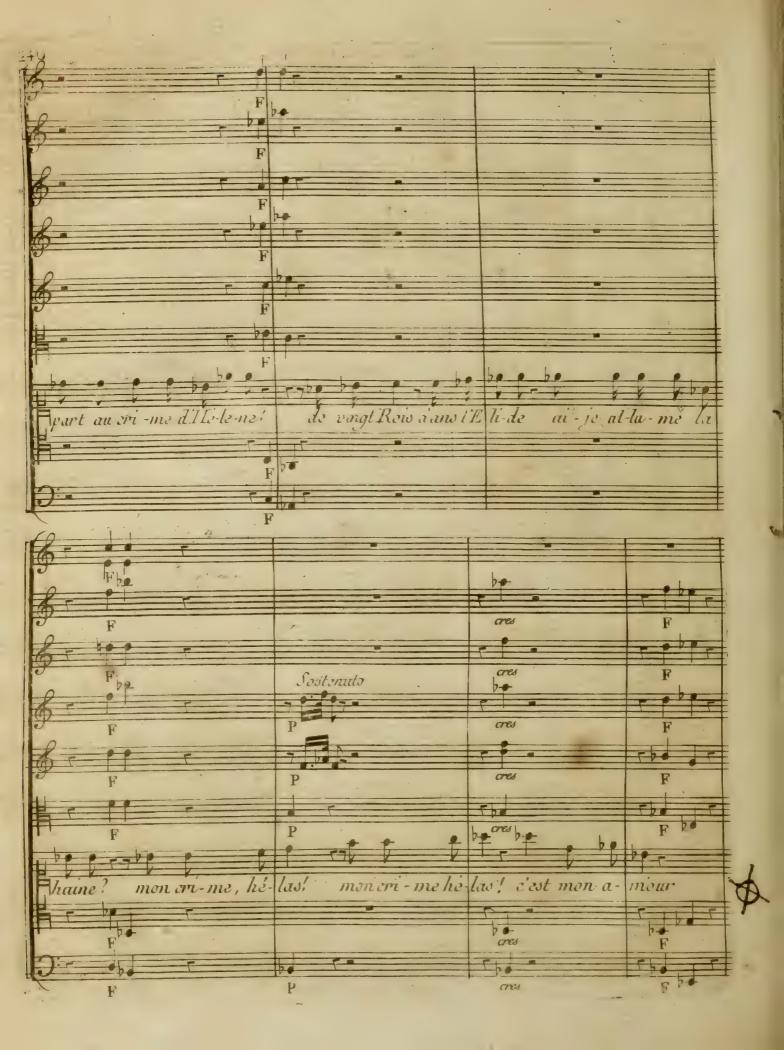


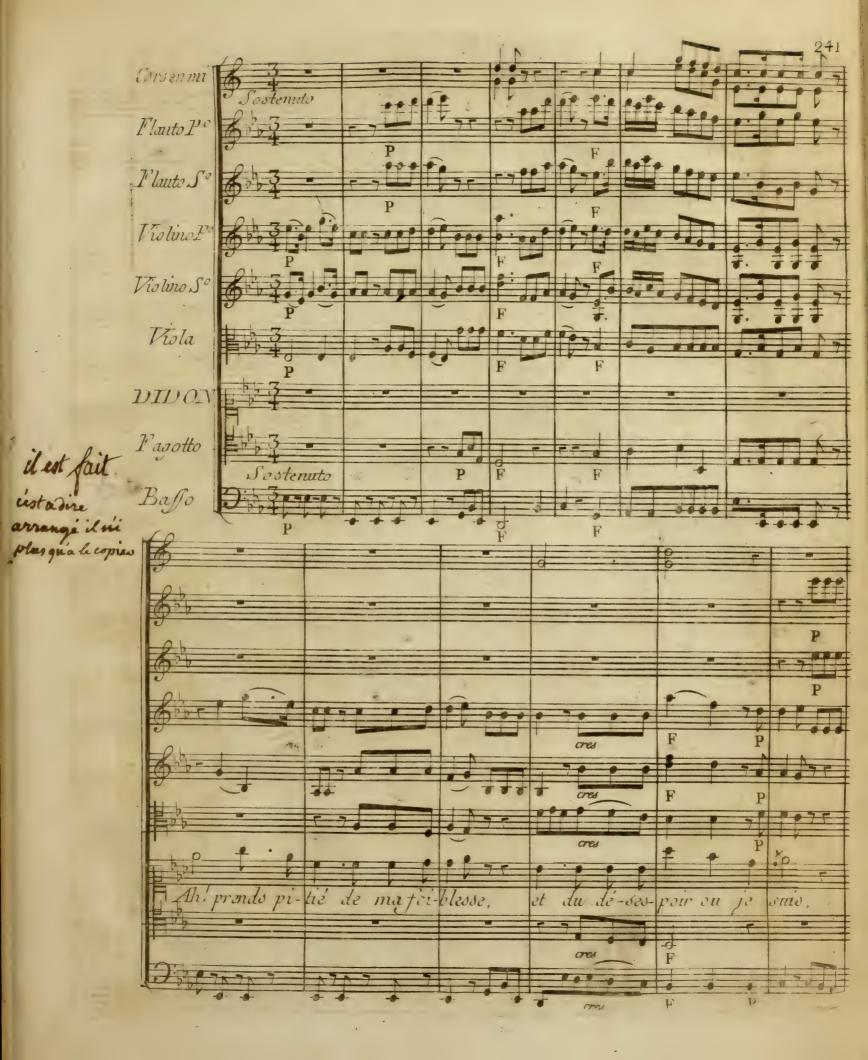


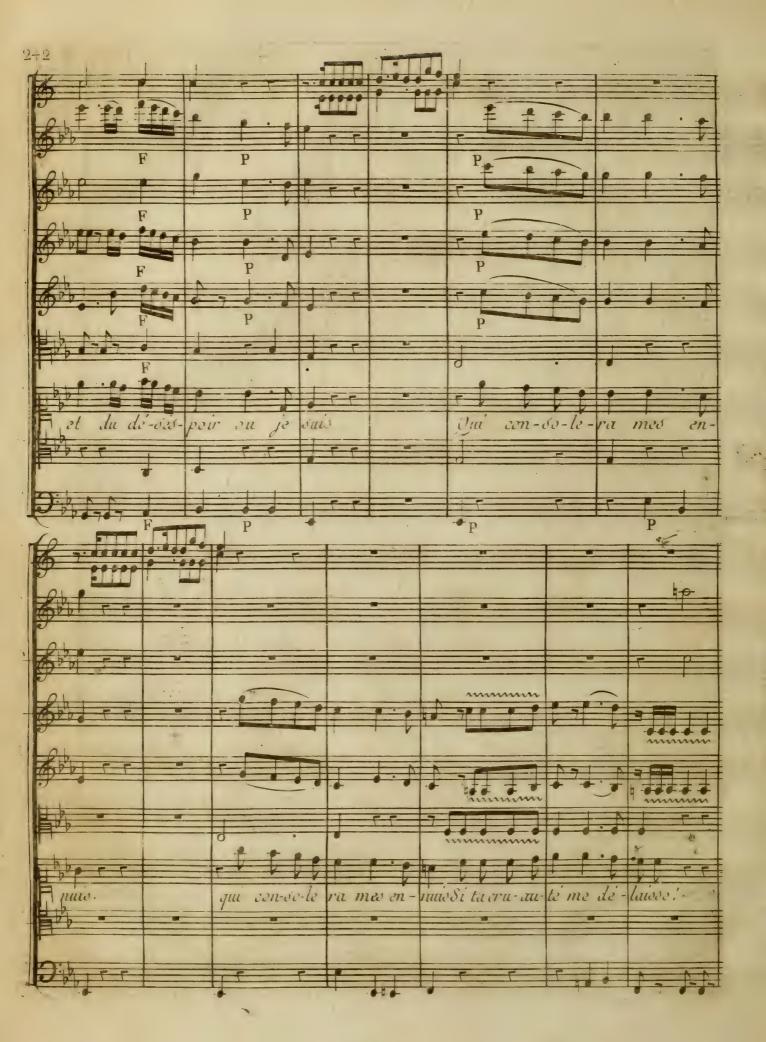




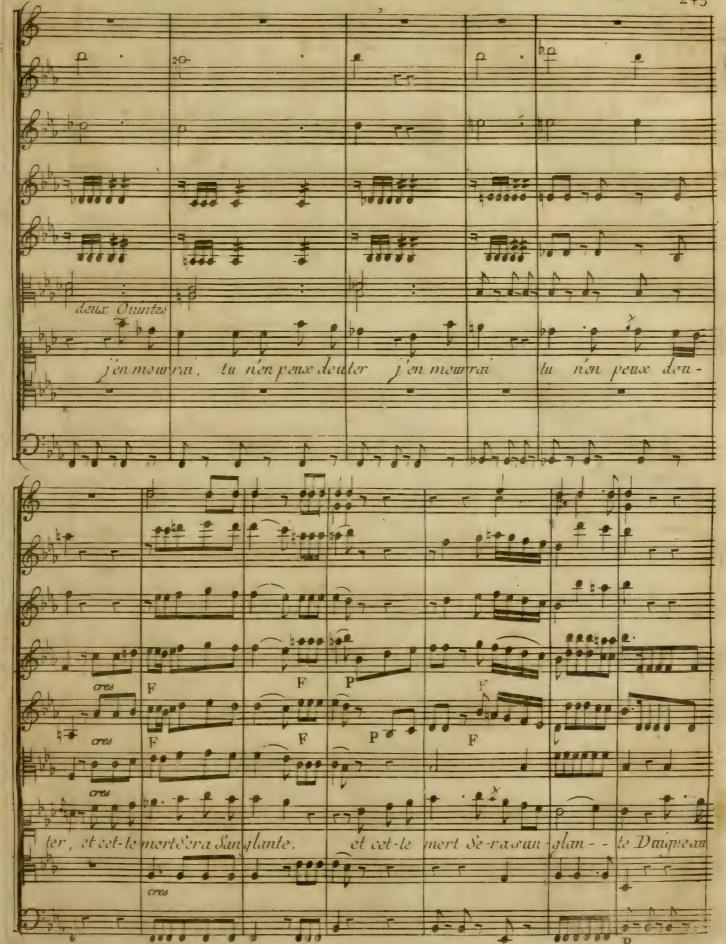


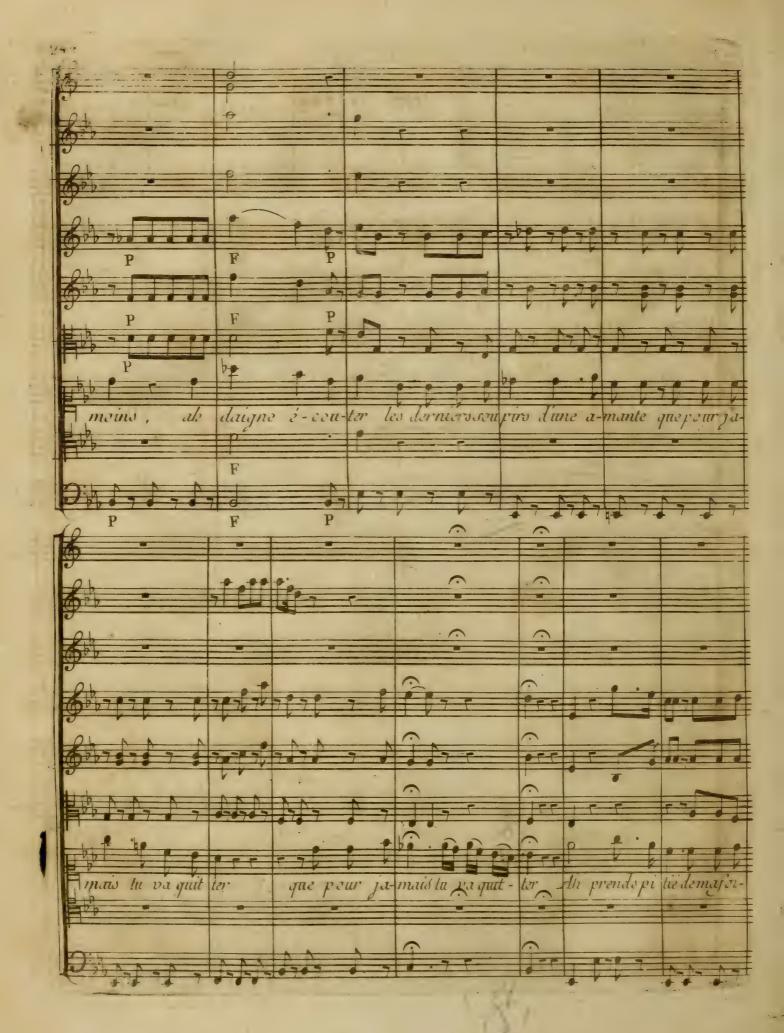


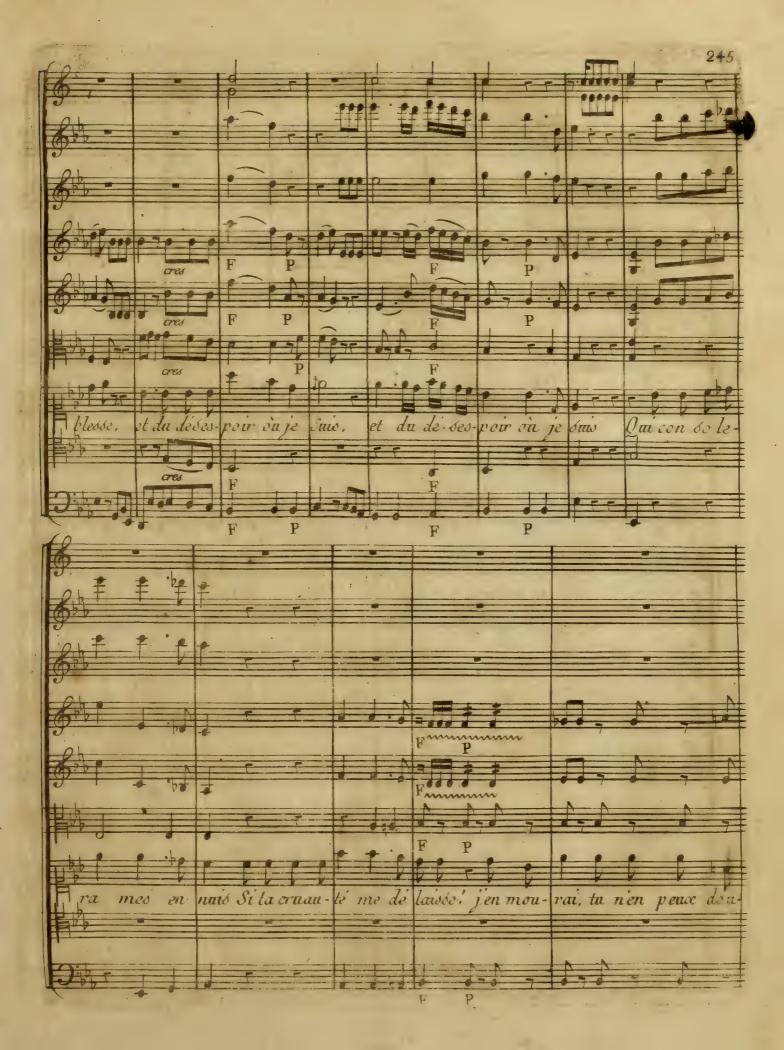


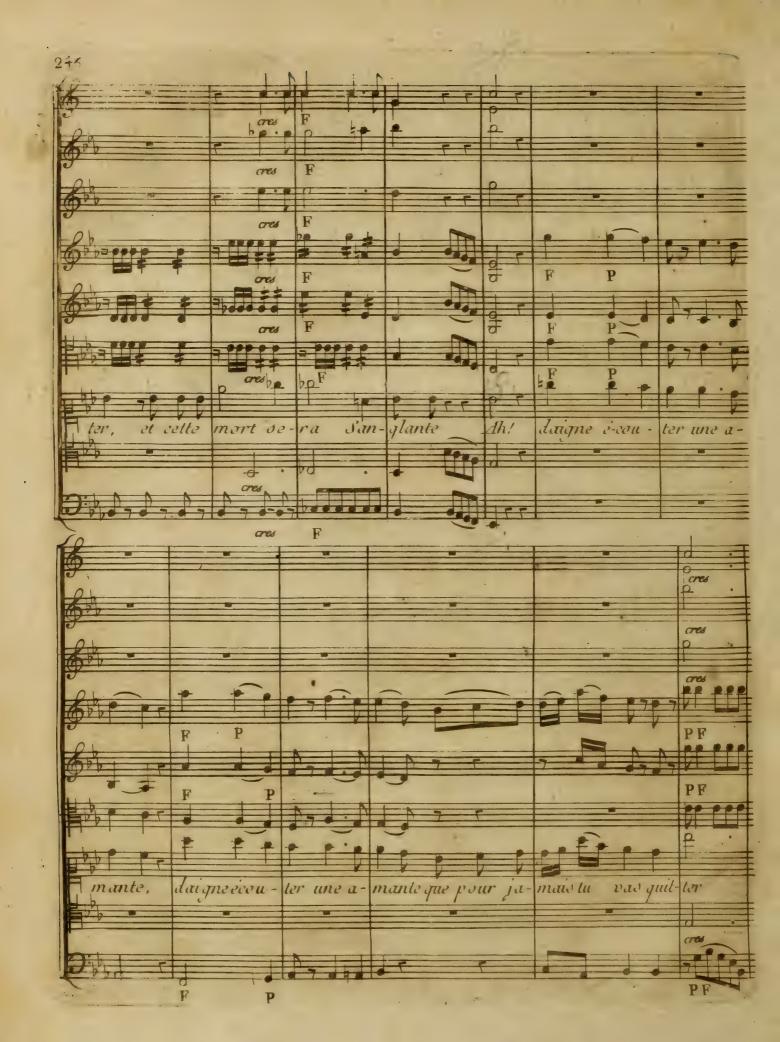


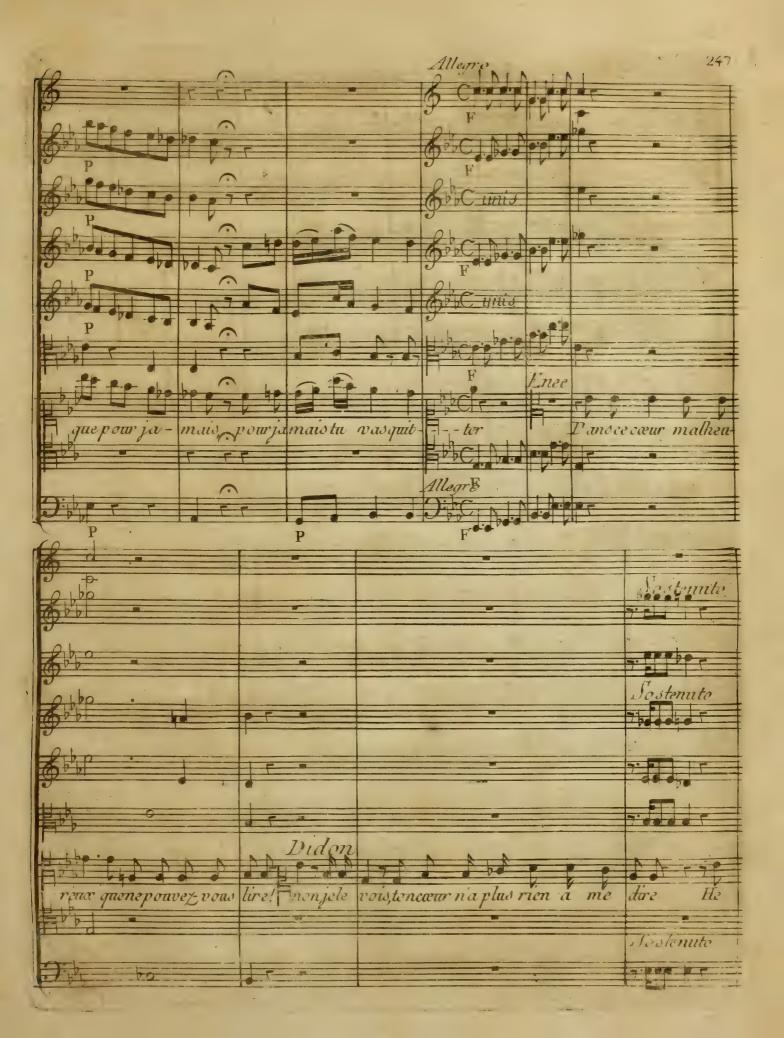


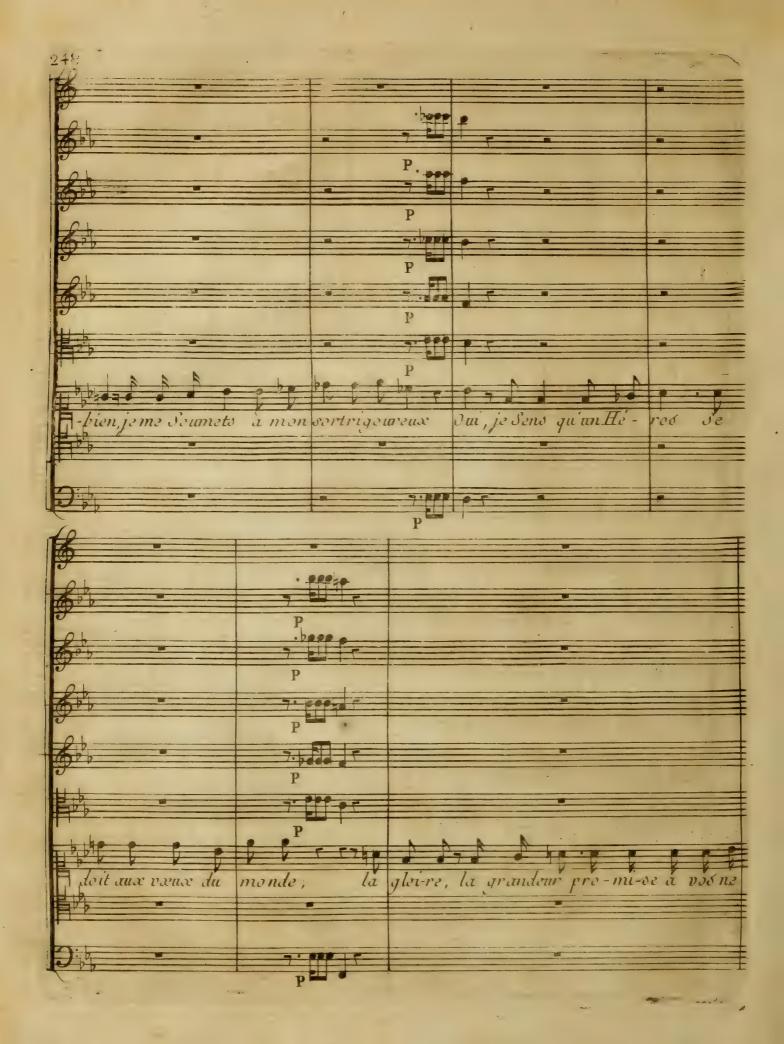




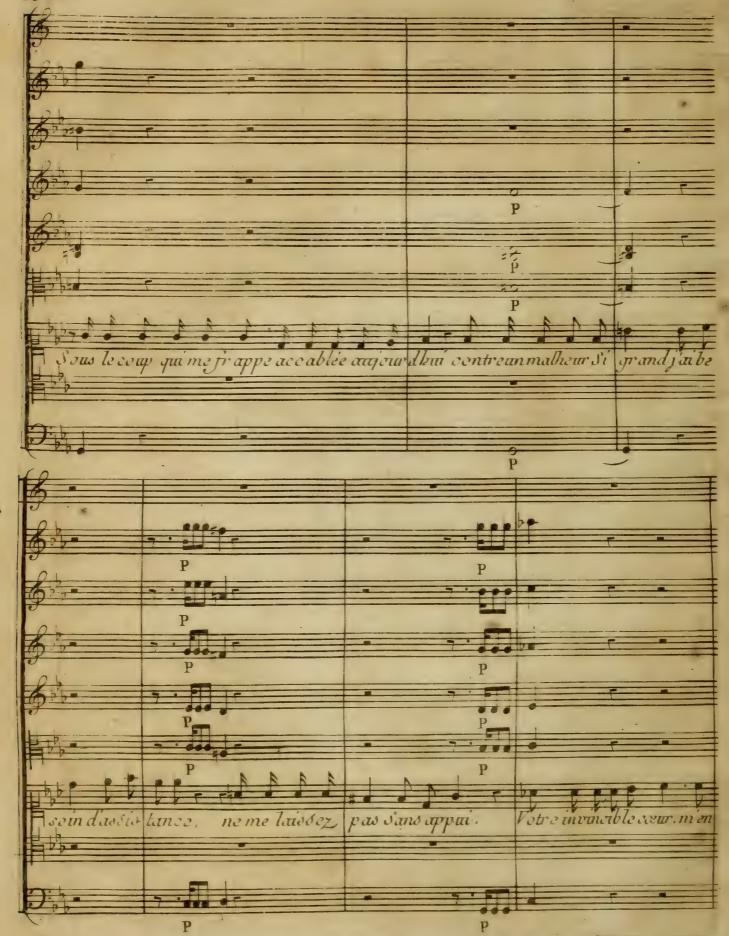


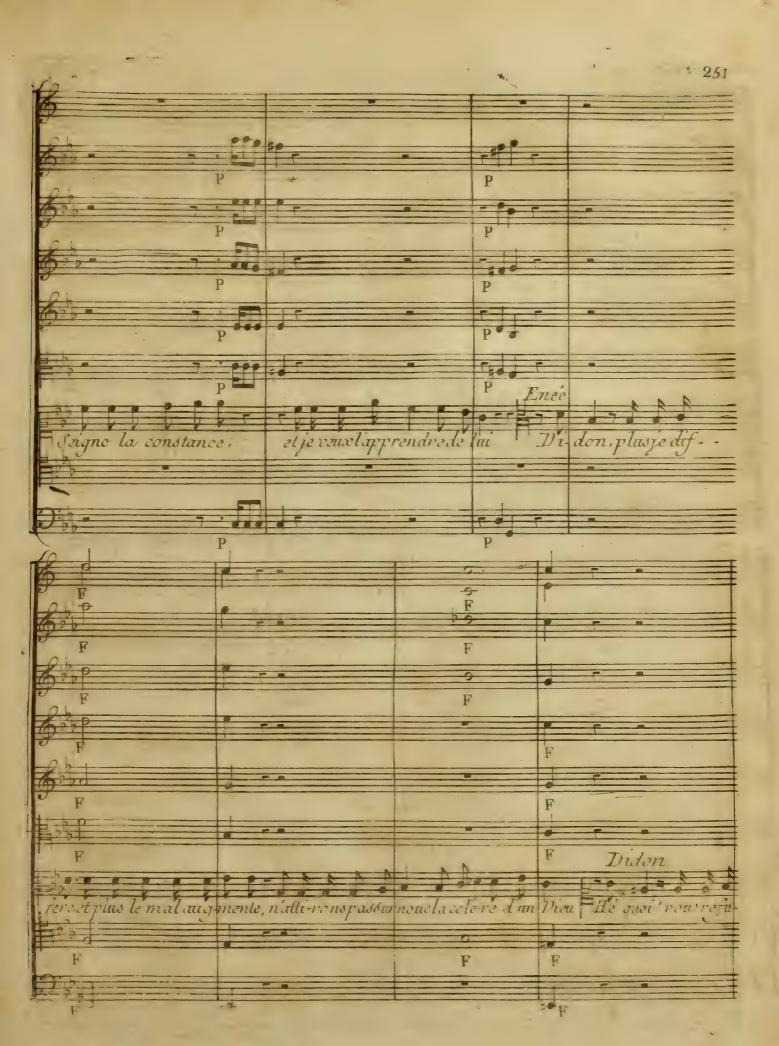


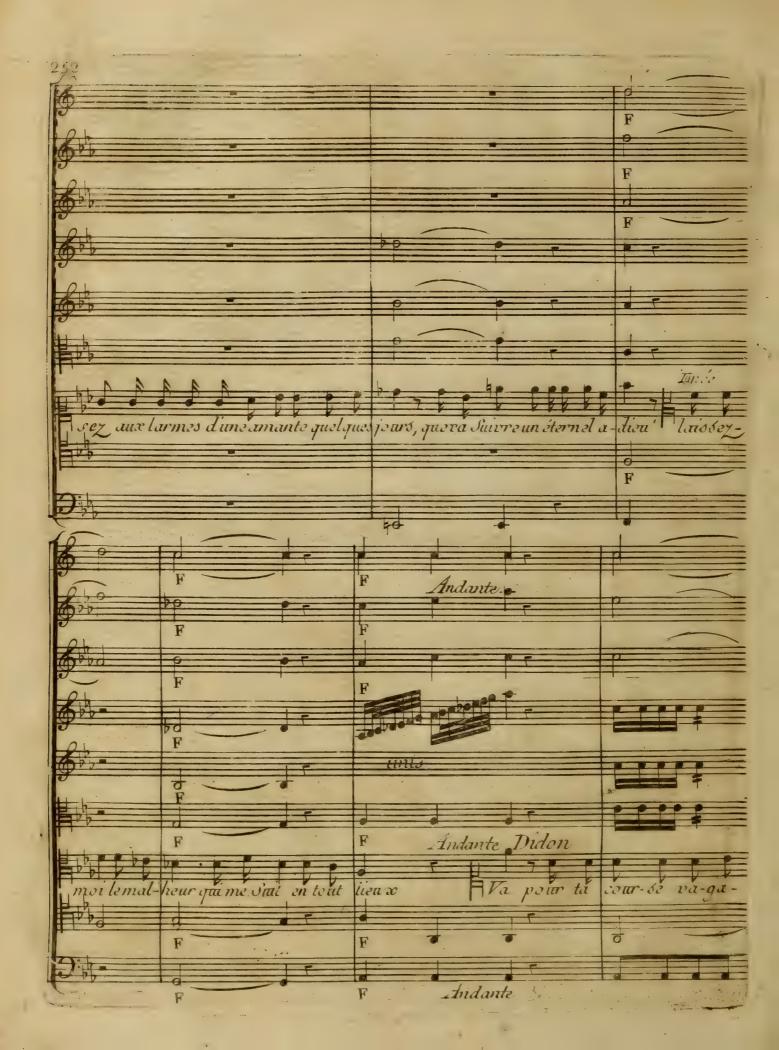


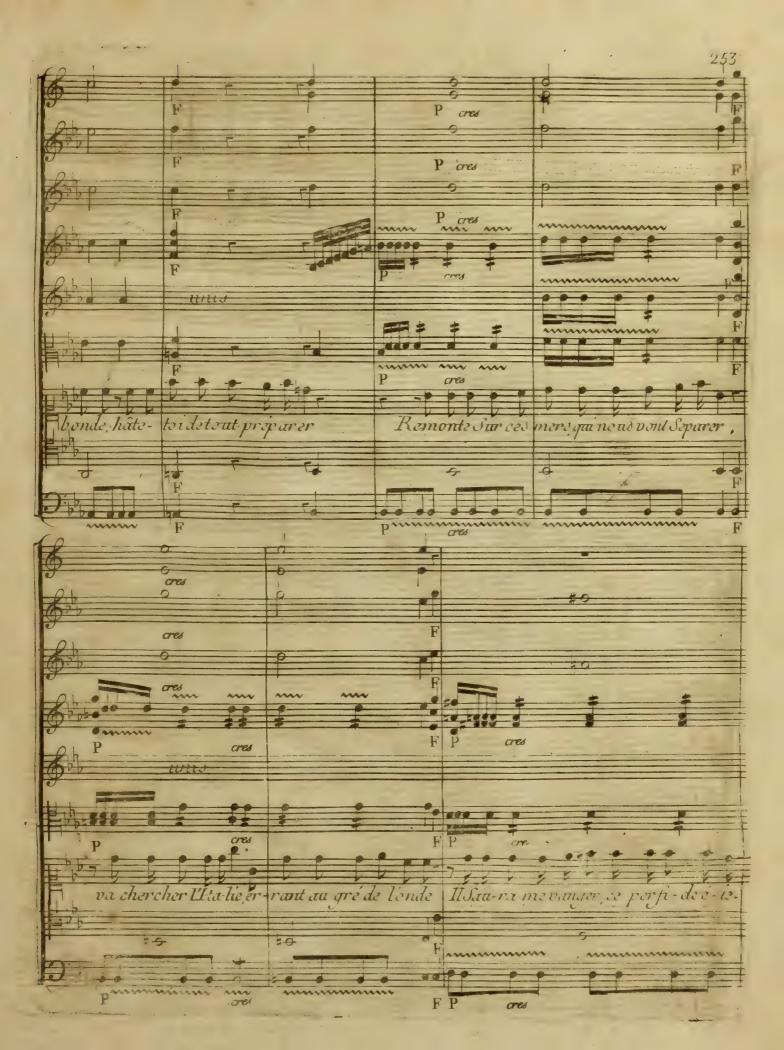






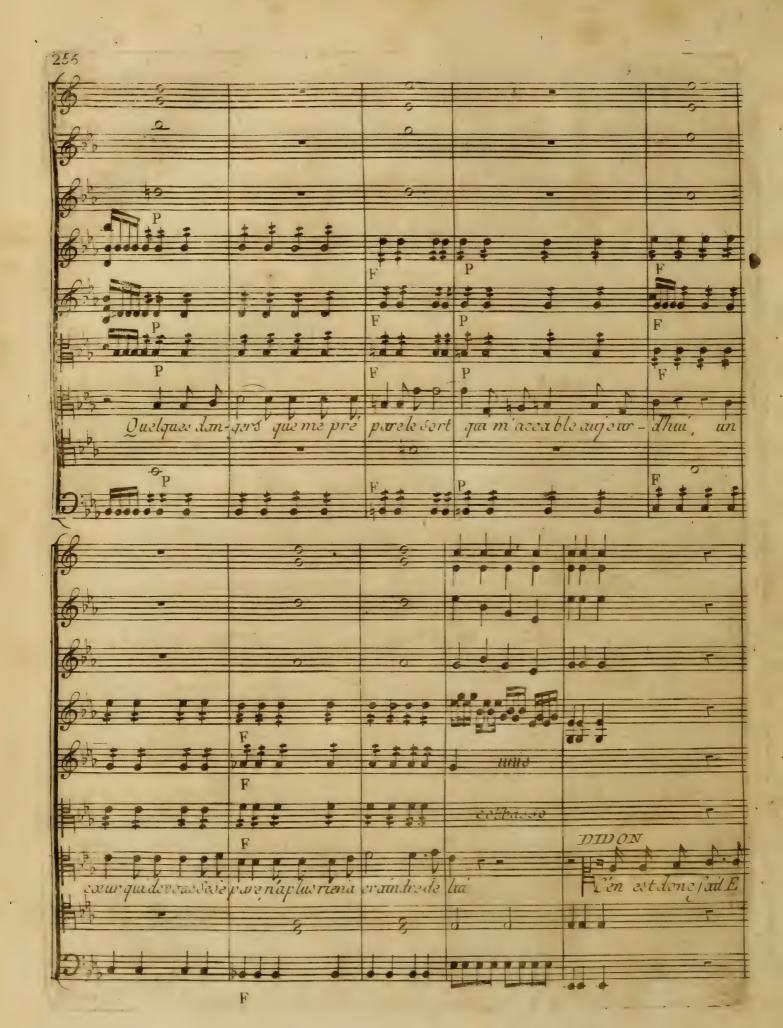


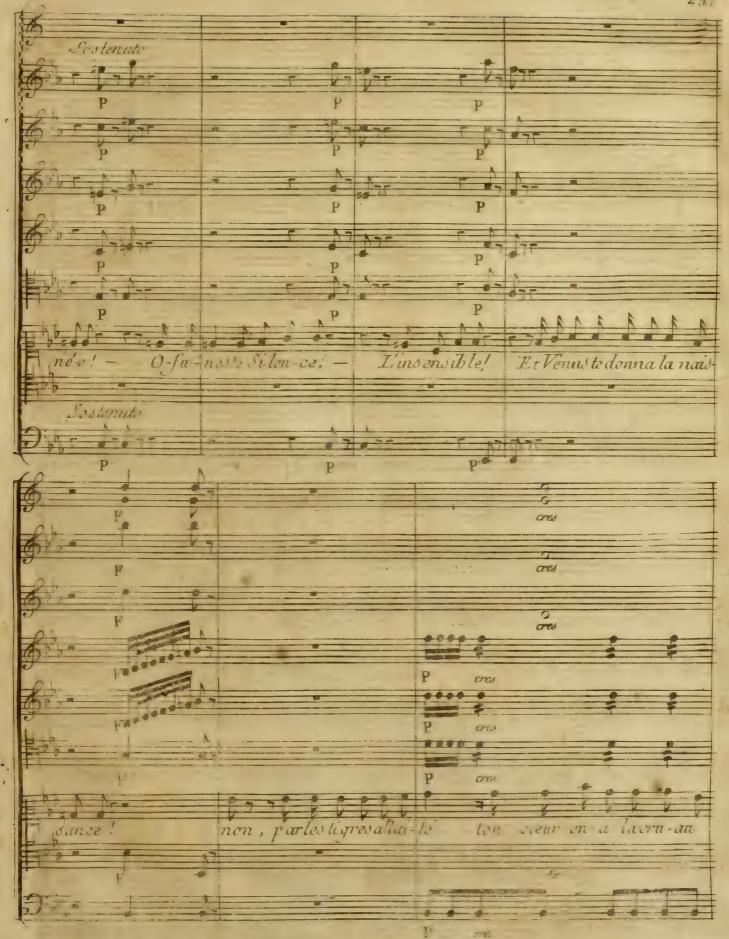


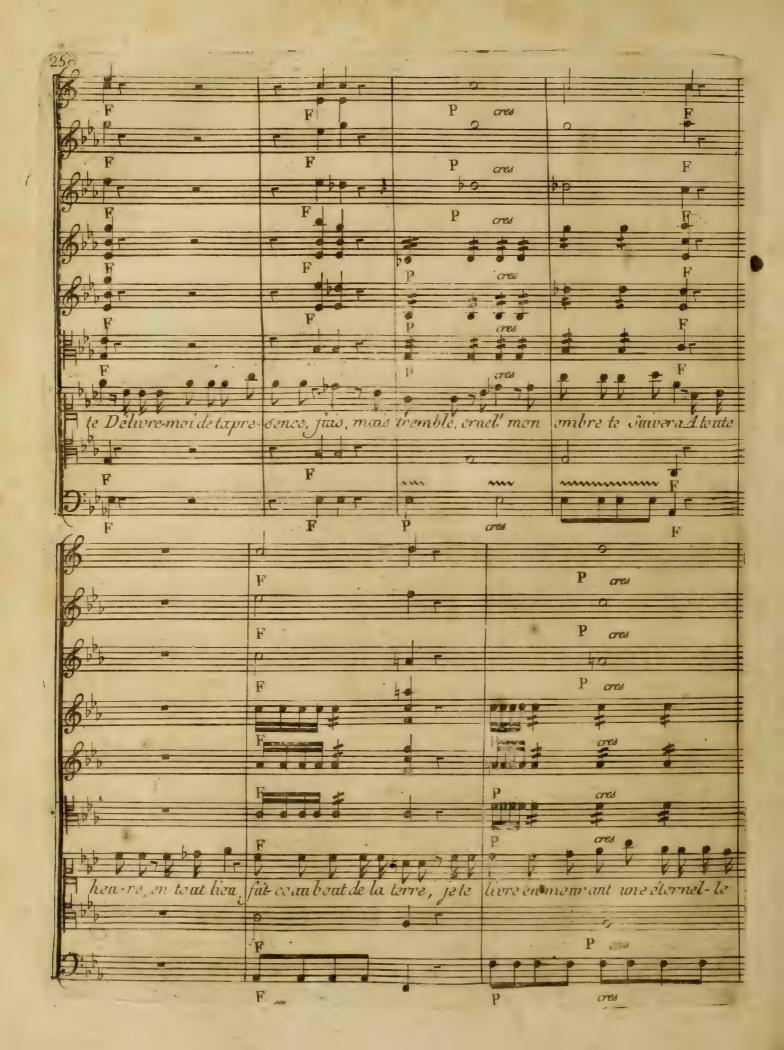


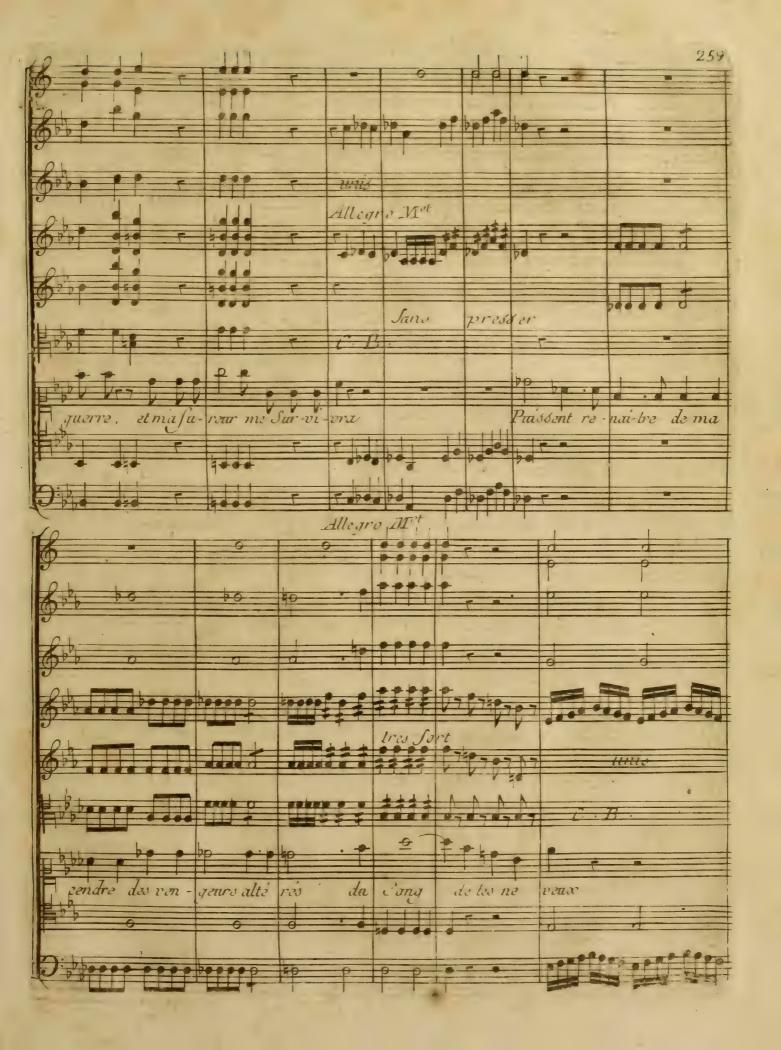


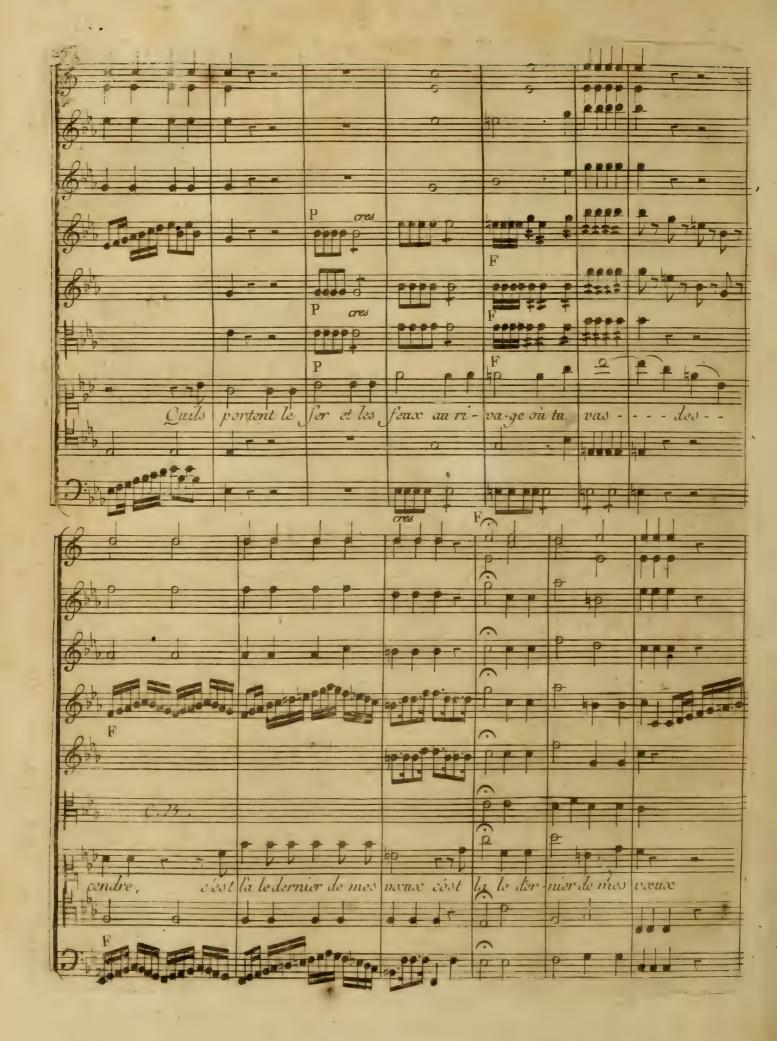


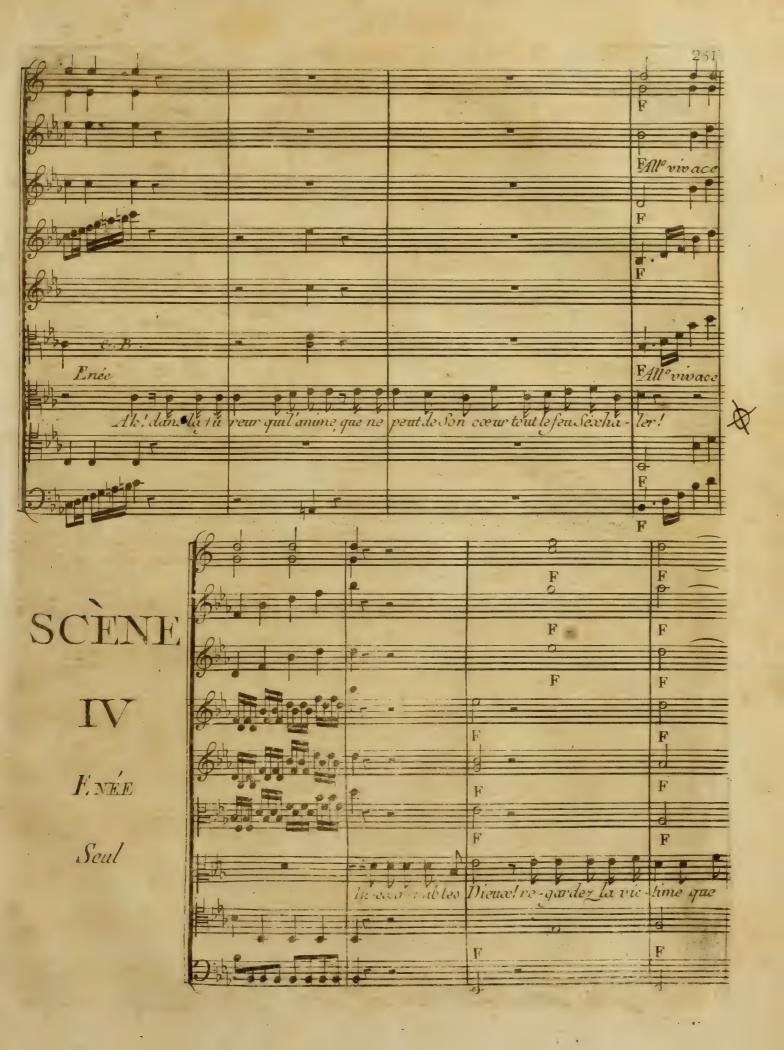








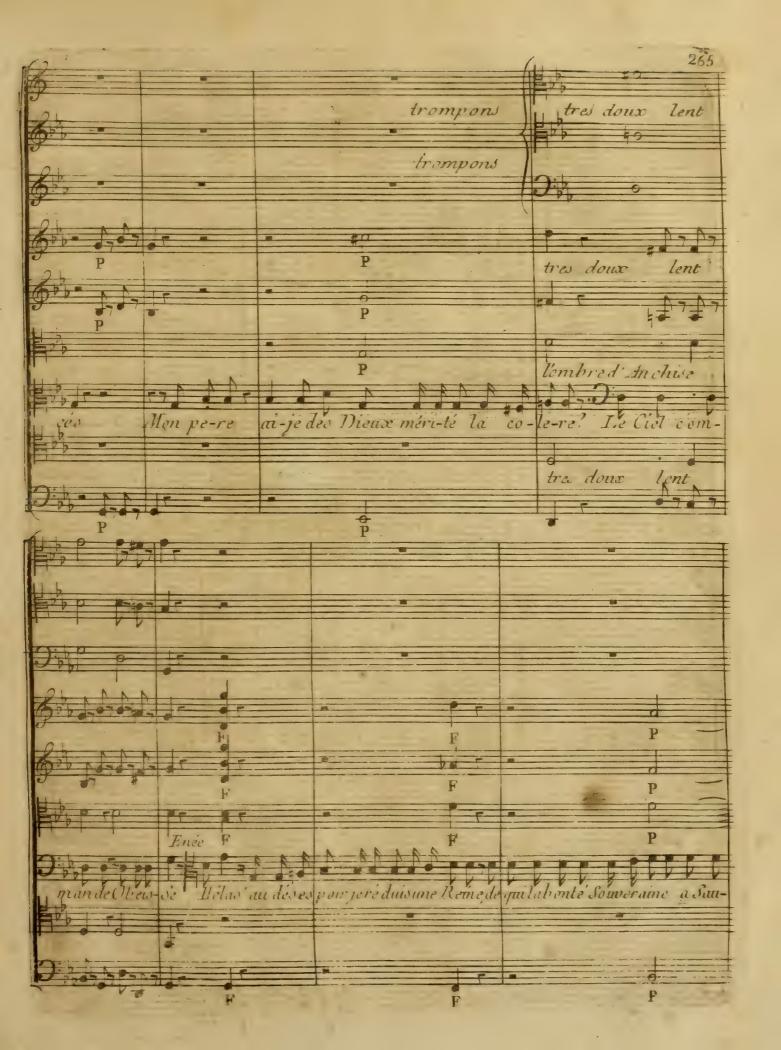


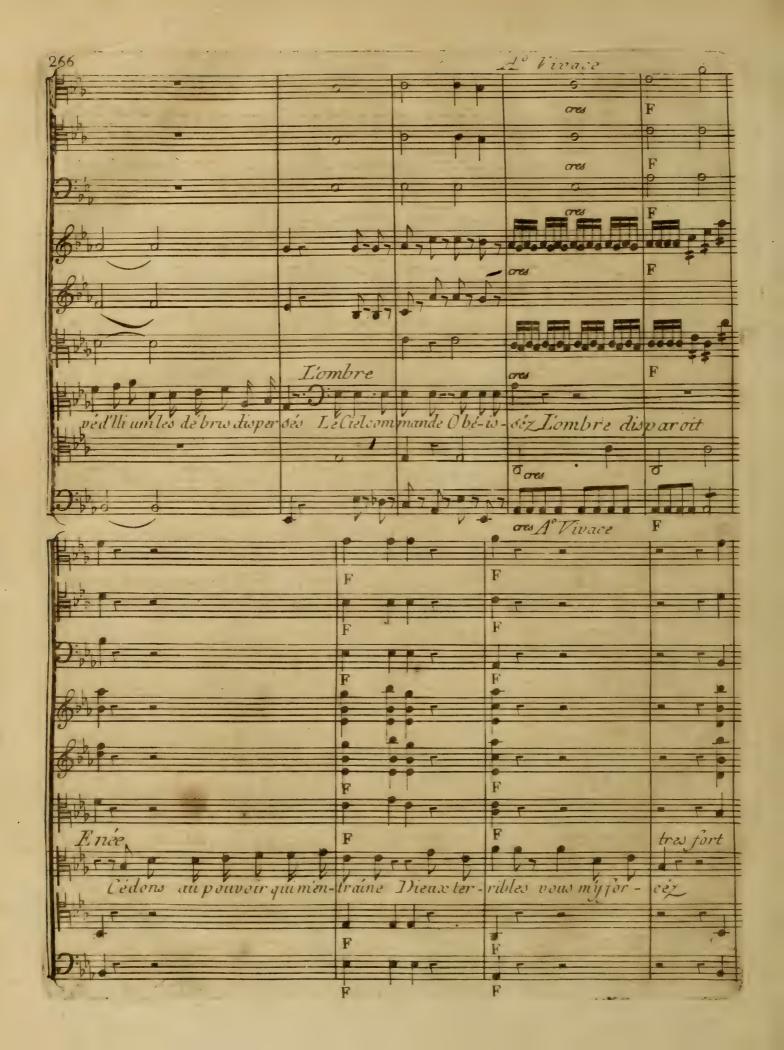


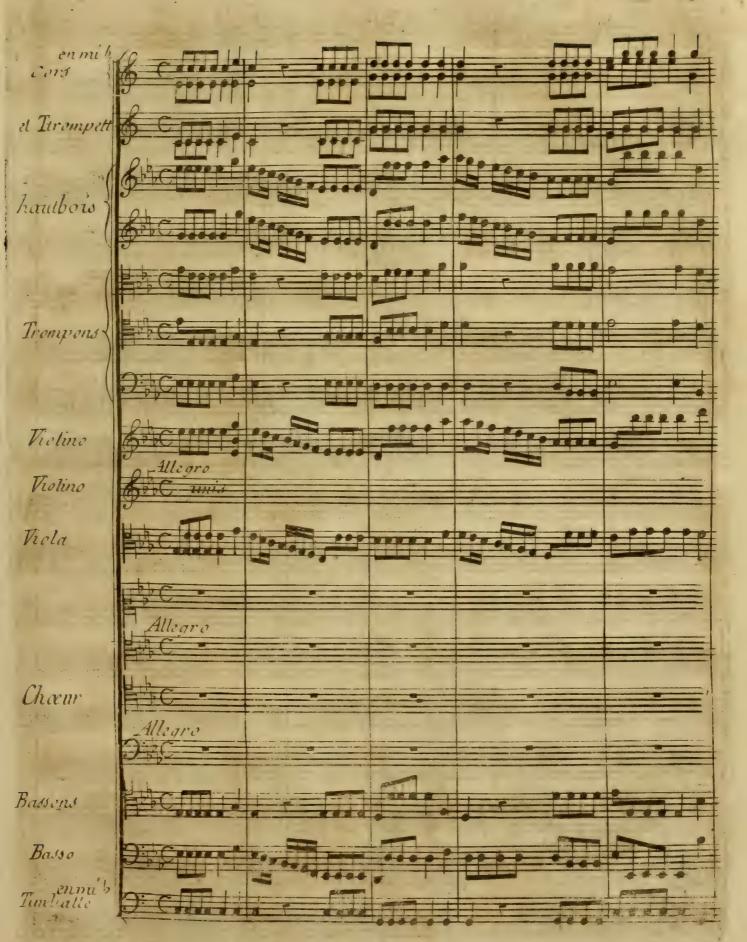










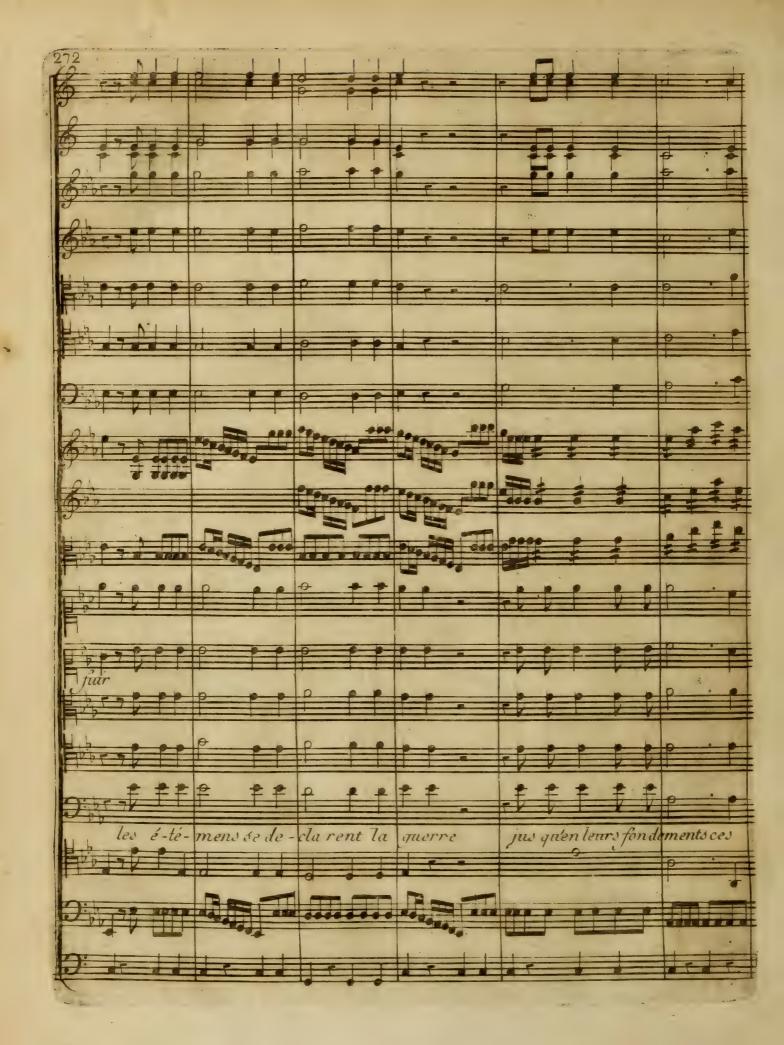






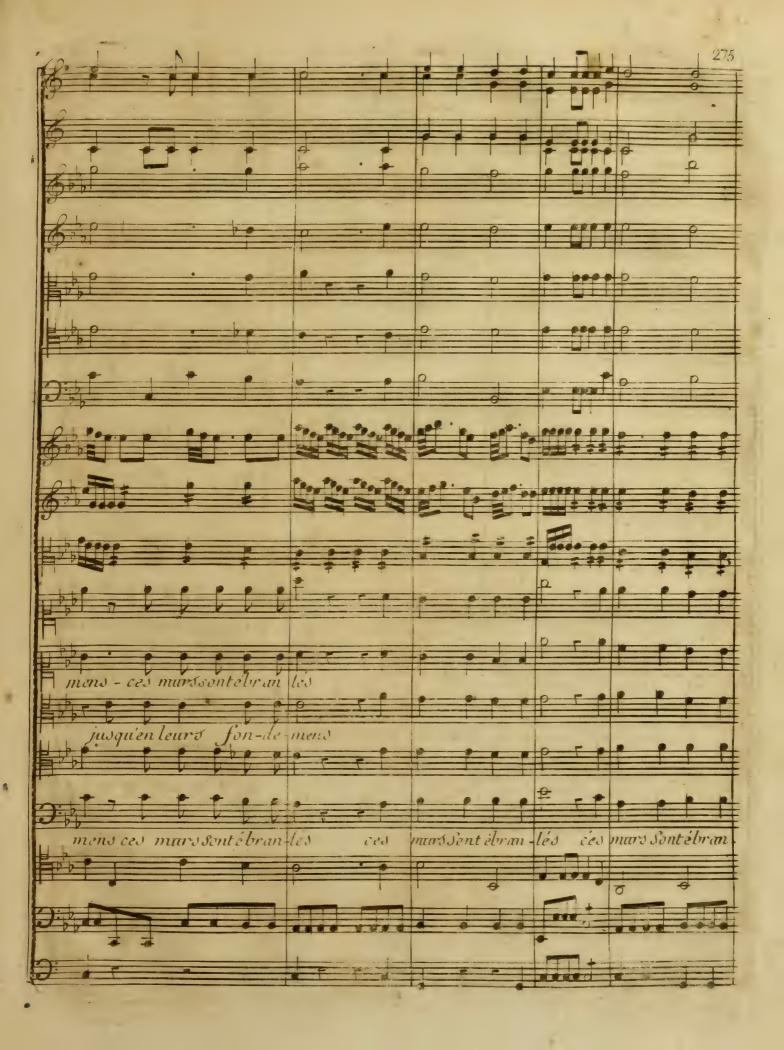


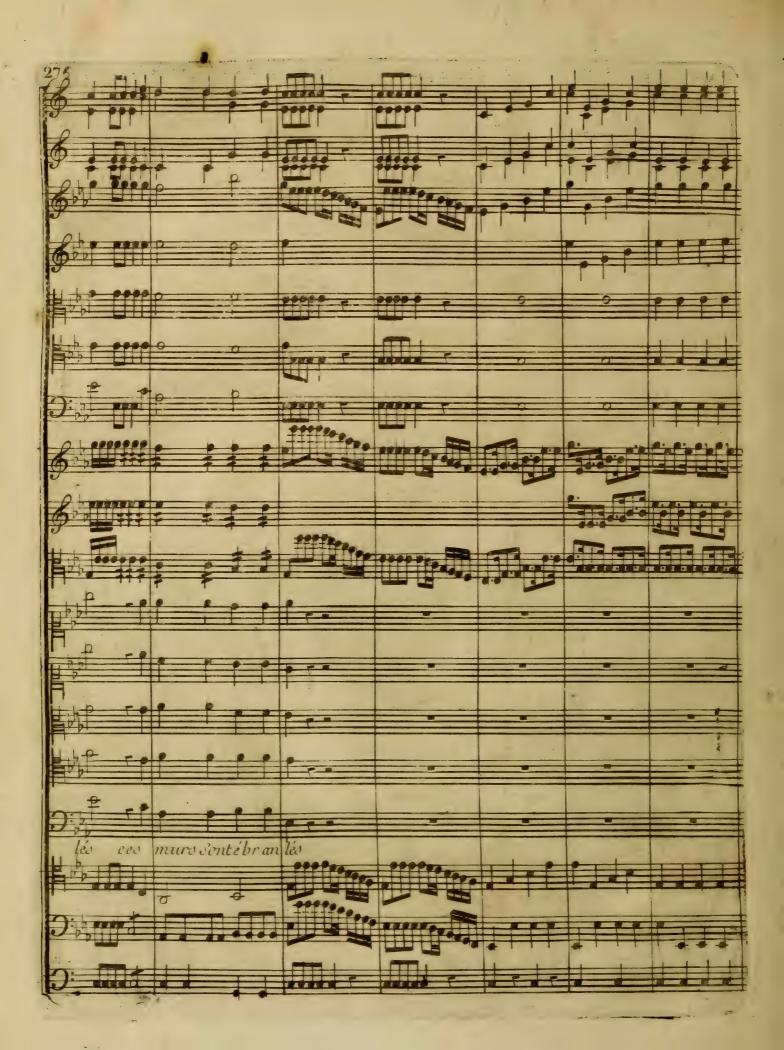












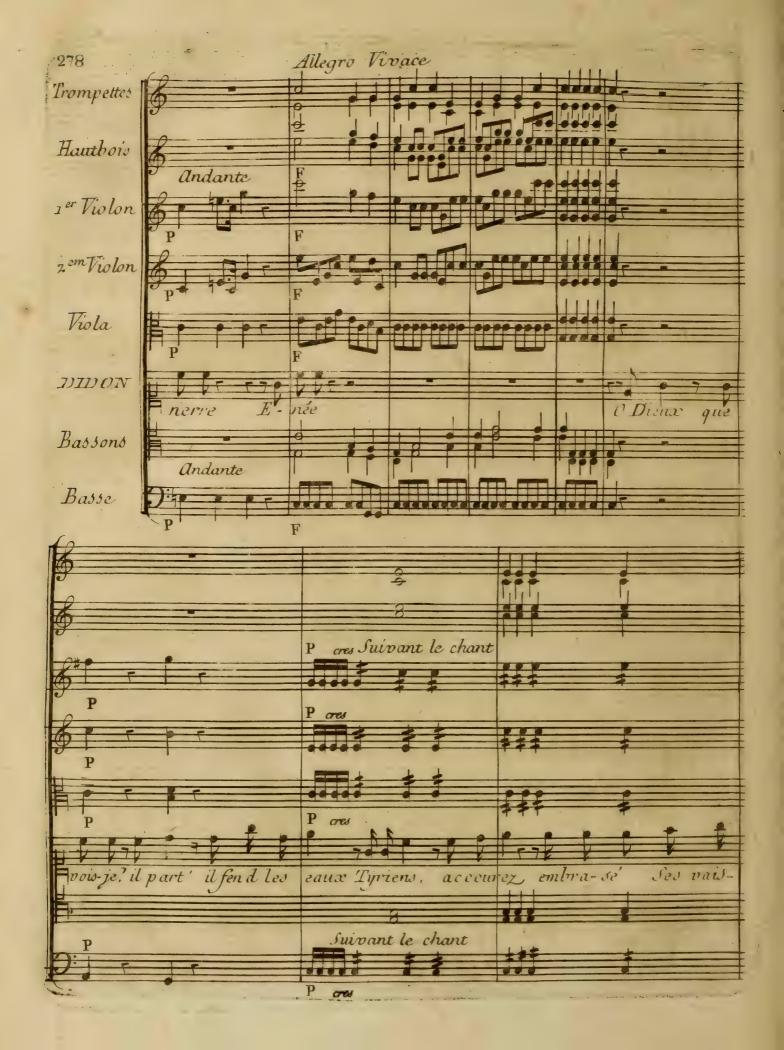
SCENE

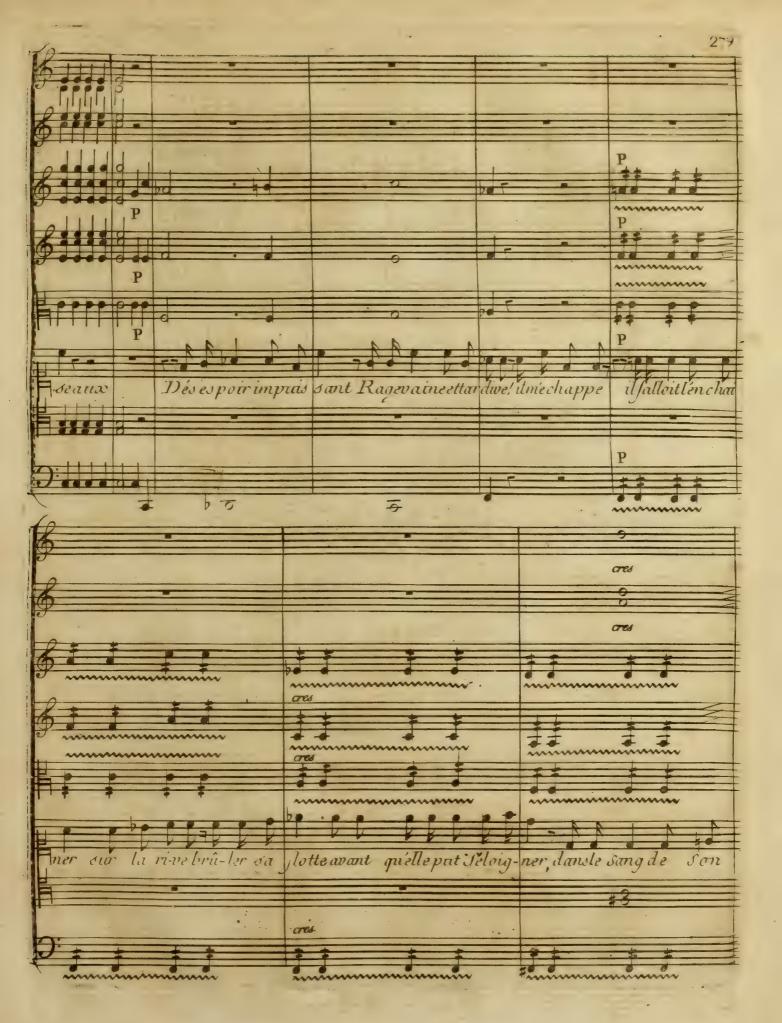
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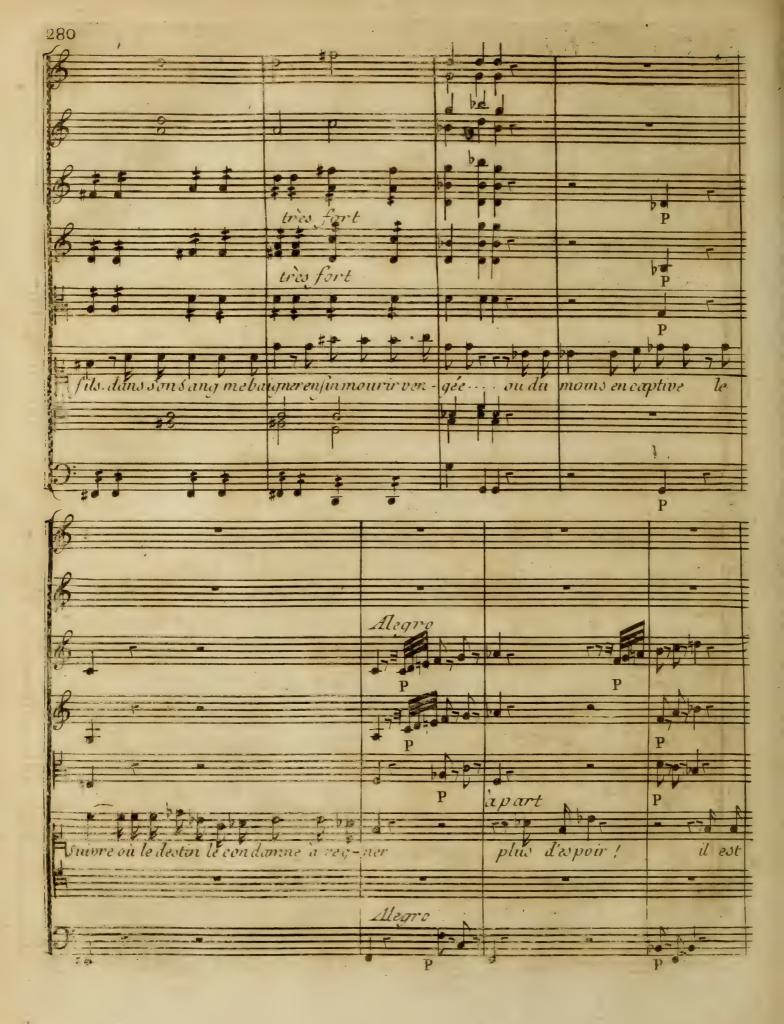
DIDON

PHÉNICE

De Suite j'usqu'au dernier Chaur

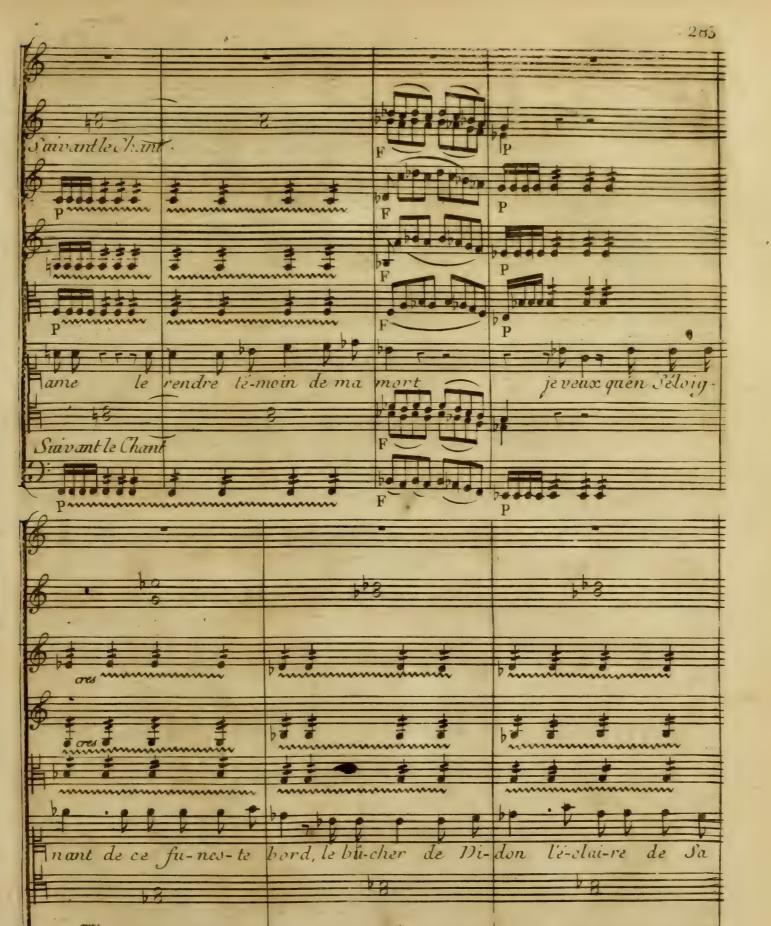




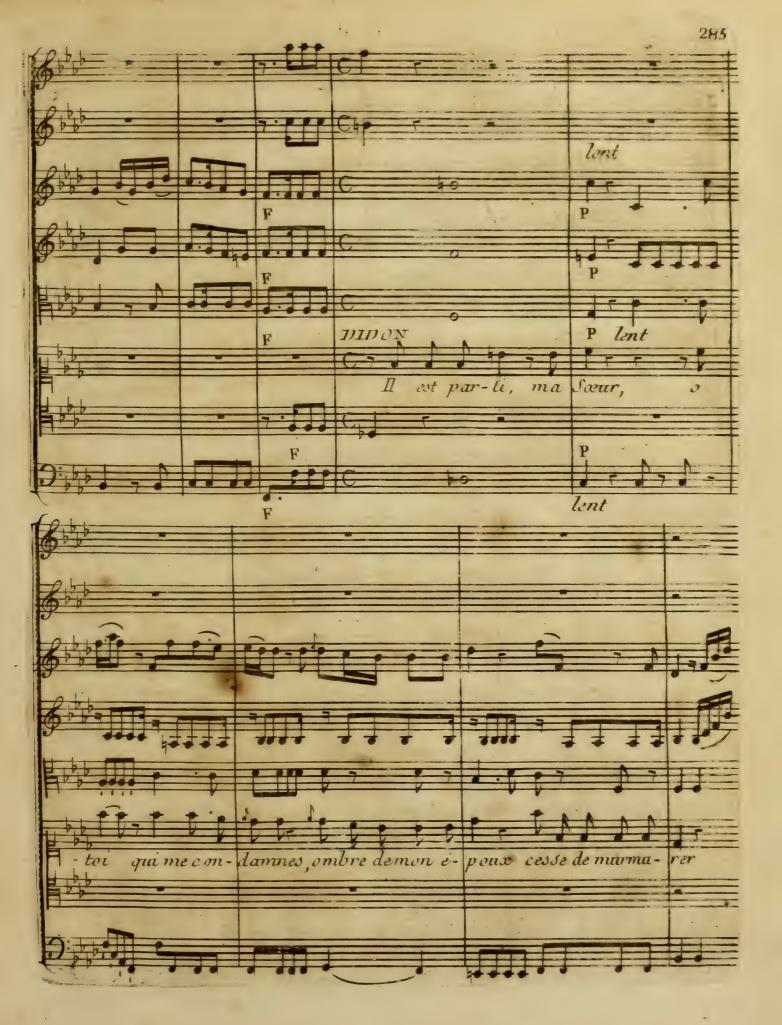


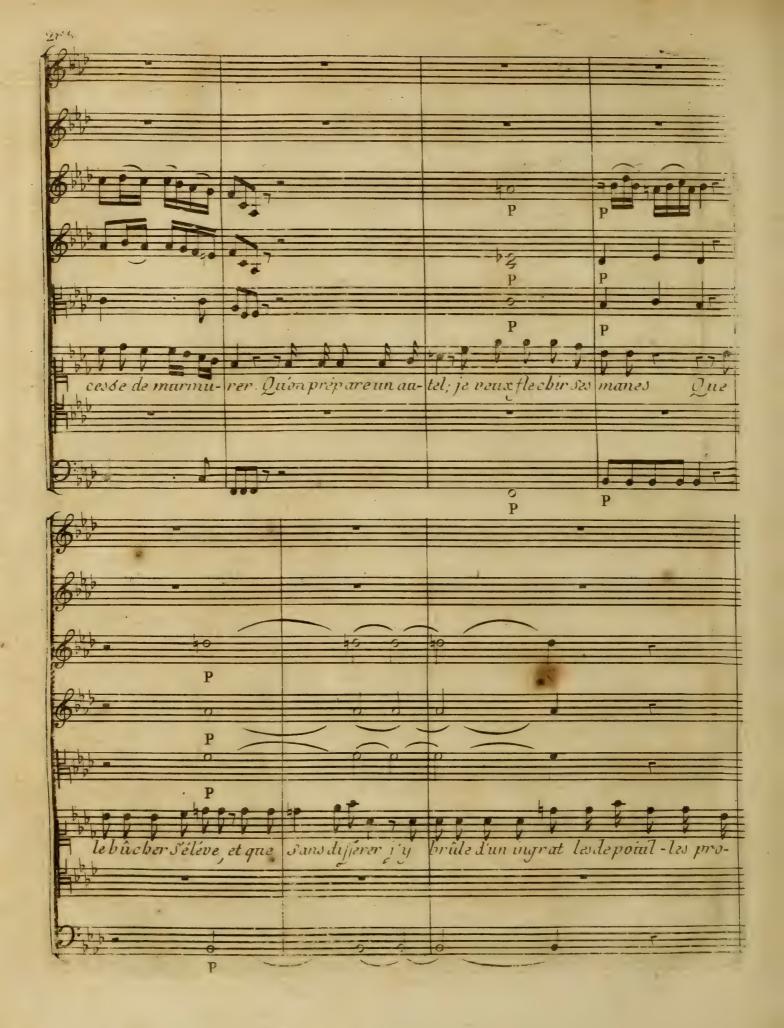




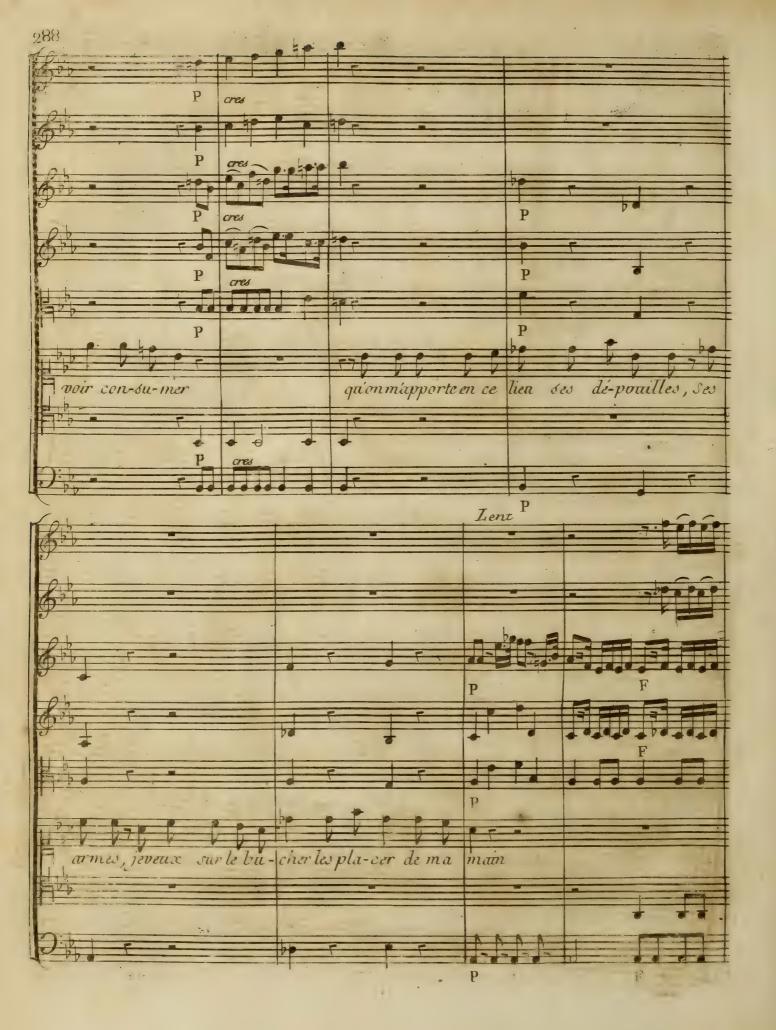


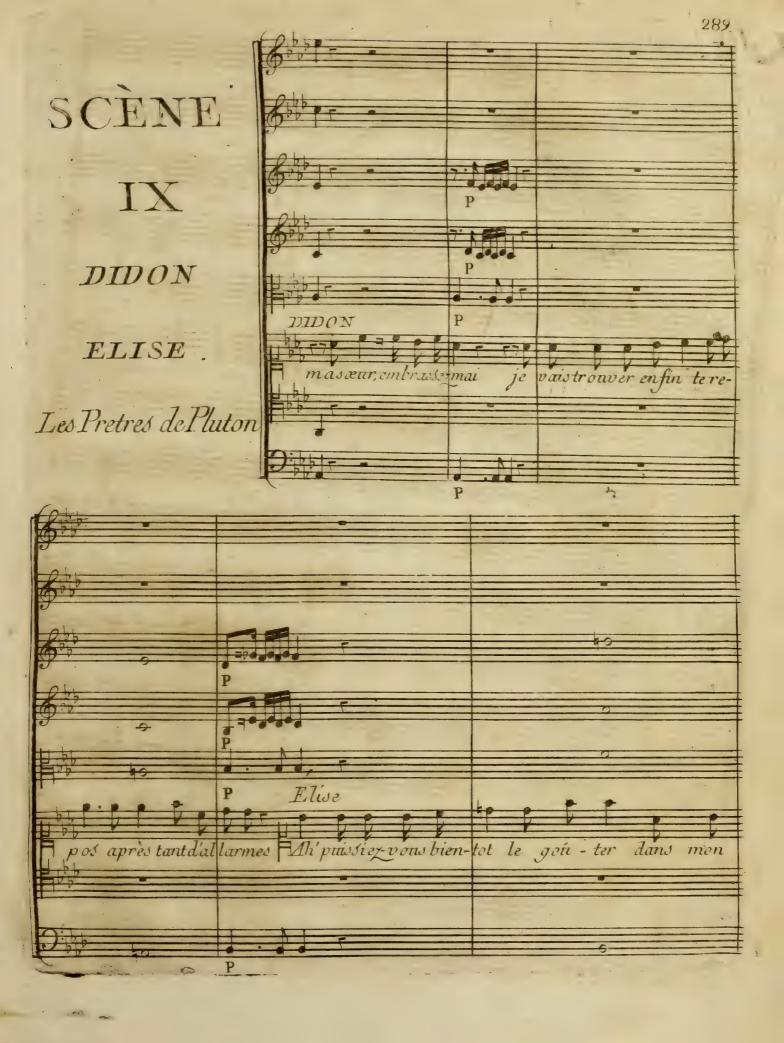












SCENE X

(Les Femmes, Suivantes de Didon, apportent les dépositiles et les armes d'Enée,)

DIDON, FILISE, PRÊTRES de PLUTON PHÉNICE

Et autres Suivantes de DIDON

CHCEUR des PRETRES

